3

Greenes Orpharion.

Wherin is diſcoue-

red a muſicall concorde of pleaſant Hiſtories, many ſweet moodes graced vvith ſuch harmonius diſcords, as agreeing in a delightfull cloſſe, they ſound both pleaſure and profit to the eare.

Heerein alſo as in a Diateheron, *the branches of Vertue, aſcending and deſcending by degrees: are covnited in the glorious praiſe of women-kind.*

VVith diuers Tragicall and Comicall Hiſtories preſented by *Orpheus* and *Arion*, beeing as full of profit as of pleaſure.

Omne tulit punctum, qui miſcuit vtile dulci.

Robertus Greene, *in Artibus Magiſter.*

AT LONDON,
Printed for *Edward VVhite*, dwelling at the little North doore of S. Paules Church: at the ſigne of the Gun. 1599.

AT LONDON,
Printed for Edward Wyre, dwelling at the
little North doore of S. Paules Church: at the
Signe of the Gun. 1579.

To the Right Worſhipfull Maiſter *Robert Carey* Eſquire, *Robert Greene* vviſheth encreaſe of all honorable vertues.

(*)

Nnius (Right Worſhipful) had a Mæcenas, though his verſes were rude, & Hippocrates durſt preſent his pictures, though they were rough. The blindeſt Bayard hath a reaſon to ſhadow his preſumption: for ſayth hee, will is aboue skill. Soothing my ſelfe (right Worſhipfull) with their humours, hauing attempted to frame out an ORPHARION, to harſh to make a concord in any cunning eare: yet with old Ennius doating in my youth as he did in his age: I doe preſume to preſent my rurall Inſtrument vnder the ſhadow of your patronage, and the rather for that as the poore Cobler durſt prefer his chattring Pye to Auguſtus, for that the Emperour was affable

fable and curteous, so hearing your Worship to be indued with such honourable vertues and plausible qualities, as drawes men to admire and loue such vnited perfection: I embolden my selfe to trust vpon your Worships curteous acceptance, which if it be such as others haue founde and I hoped for, & that any way this Orpharion may agree with the daintines of your touch and fingering, the end of my labours and the summe of my desires consort in one sympathie, and in that hope, I commit your Worship to the Almightie.

Your VVorships humbly to commaund,

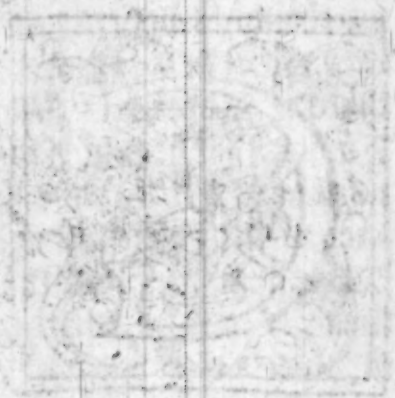
Ro. Greene.

To the Gentlemen Readers Health.

Entlemen, I haue long promiſed my Orpharion, and becauſe I would not fruſtrate your expectation: at laſt it is leapt into the Stacioners Shoppe, but not from my Study, for then might you thinke I had ſweld with the mountaines, and brought foorth a Mouce, but the Printer had it long ſince; marry whether his preſſe were out of tune, Paper deere, or ſome other ſecret delay driue it off, it hath line this twelue months in the ſuds. Now at laſt it is crept forth in the Spring, a ſlender bud and eaſily to be nipt with the leaſt froſt of Diſdaine.

Therfore doo I entreate whatſoeuer melody my Orpharion yeeld: you would fauour the bloſſome with the Sunſhine of your curteous acceptance, elſe ſhall you diſcourage a Gardener for grafting any more, and therefore hoping to finde you as euer I haue done, farwell.

Rob. Greene.



Vpid hauing taught me what restlesse passions are in loue, what continual perturbations Fancy affordes to such as account beauty the principal end of their affects: hauing receiued the wound, I sought where to find a salue fit for the easing of my malady: Experience willing that I should not tye my thoughts on delay, told me that such as were enuenomed with the Scorpion, must be healed by the Scorpion, that the Tarantals sting could not be pulde out without Musick, that he which was pierced with Achilles Launce must be healed by his Speare, and they which were charmed with Loue, must seeke to loue, or els lacke remedy: Whereupon doubtfull what I should do, I was willed to sue to Venus as soueraigne Goddesse and patronesse of such perplexed patients. I left my home and sayled to Cipres, there found I men vnknowne, but not her whom I lookt for: there might I see Venus Pallace like the gorgious Tower built by Semeramus. Sloth being Porter, sleepy, and suffering free passage to all, the gate of entrance was not the way to returne: for at the other side was a doore to depart, where Beggery stoode and threatned all, but strooke some with his whip of repentance: within I found Princes, great Lords and men of meane calling, al prisoners, some fettered by the eyes, others by the eares, some by the tong, as hauing more lust in their mouth then loue in their mindes, none or fewe cheyned by the harts, and such as were set inthroned in a secret Cell: those Venus shrinde vp as wonders of the worlde, well: missing what I came for, I past speedily from thence to Paphos, where Venus had onely a Temple, thither came multitudes on Pilgrimage, making vowes, vttering oathes,

and

and protesting promises: if they might enioy the fruition of their Ladyes, to be sworne votaries to the Goddesse: Some were favoured, others disgraced: some dispaired, some hoped, but all found the ende of their pilgrimage was to buy smoake with many perrills and daungers: But all these instances were no arguments to diswade me from my iourney: But as Medea though I saw the best and allowed of it, yet I followed the nærest & smarted for it, for such as be in loue are like the Dære which one while strike at the Tamarisk træ with their hornes, and then grædily burst on it with their mouthes, others the people of Mamaca, that surfet on Dates, and yet dye with them in their mawes. Louers exclaime agaynst Cupid, and yet they goe on pylgrimage to Paphos, they call Venus vniust, and yet offer her incense and sacrifice, they fore-sæ misery, and yet run headlong on their owne misfortune. So fared it with mee, for sæing these men thus dæpely passionate, and yet so slenderly rewarded, as who carried away the greatest trophe, had his ensigne stamped with repentance: yet their mishaps could not make me learne to beware, but from Paphos I went to the fountaine of Alcidalion, where I heard Venus to anoyde the heate of Sommer, was kept close Prisoner by Mars in a Pauillion, but I found the rumour false, yet did I not repent mee of my arriuall, for there I saw sitting about the bancks, infinite troupes of faire and beautifull Ladyes, all votaries vnto Venus, smyling at the fondnesse of men, and laughing at the passions of their Louers, making true loue knots of rushes, that broke ere they could be twisted: some sæmed lyke Saintes, those were subtill and peruerse: others fawned, and those were flatterers: some wept, and they let fall teares of deceite: some sæmde to haue many eyes, and those had many fancies: some two harts, and yet they were very chast: for some had twenty measuring their Loues by their lookes: gazing still vpon their countenance and gesture, I perceiued

ned hard by seperate from the rest a fewe Ladyes sitting passing solitarie, their names were ingrauen in the trees, but so long since as hardly I could read them, yet I found out Hero, Penelope, Thisbe, Artemesia, alas a small number and disdained by the rest, these had their eyes shut against beauty, and their eares open to vertue, their harts subiect to loue, but onely stamped with one Carracter, resembling the Emeraulde, that neuer looseth the first impression nor admitteth any other: well here I could neyther finde Venus, nor heare of her, but scoffinglie those girles told me, she was either in Ida or in Erecinus, desirous to lose no time, I hasted from Alcydalion to Ida, where I could see no steps of a Goddesse, but only the ancient monument of Troy cõsumed to cinders, there I noted the end of loue, the reward of lust, the trophes of Venus, the follies of women in Helena, that brought Priamus his sonnes, and so famous a Cittie to confusion. From thence I posted to Erecinus, the Mountaine was greene and pleasant to the eye, the stones that appeared higher then the grasse seemed like Iacinthes, the mosse was flowers, the very rubbish below pearles, so ỹ nature seemd to haue conquered art, and art nature, and a supernatural glory both in musing at the gorgeous scituation of this deuine Mount, looking if eyther there were Palace or Temple dedicate to Venus, I sawe none, but casting mine eye into the bordring vale, I saw a Shepheard grasing of his flockes. Desirous to learne of the man any newes of the Goddesse, pacing downe from the Hyll, I went and saluted him in this manner.

Shepheard, so I name thee for thy flockes, more maist thou be, for Apollo kept Midas sheepe, and Mercury taken the shape of a Heardman: but measuring thy degree as present thou seemest, I craue so much fauour at thy hands, as to tell mee whether Venus is resident about this mount of Erecinus, or no, I haue beene at all her places of abode, and this is the last of all her earthly mansi-

ons: This Shepheard hearing me salute him so curteously, laying downe his pipe and his hooke aunswered thus bluntly.

Friend, what I am it little reckes thée, thou seest my foulds, and then why standest thou vpon higher titles? In calling me shepheard or Swaine, thou giuest me my due, if my degree be greater, my sheepe may serue for thy excuse, to thy question: as it sauours of folly, so I thinke best to aunswer it with silence, yet for I see thy thoughts to be full of passions, and thy face the map of sorrowes, the two notes of a Louer, if I knew my counsaile might profite thee, or my experience warne thee, I would bestow a little wast time while my Sheepe grase so hard, to holde thee chat.

Hearing the Shepheard beginning so roughly, to conclude so gently, willing to be auditor to his Countrypreceptes, I aunswered him thus.

Shepheard, if thou be no better, (for thy talke makes me suspect higher, know that I haue tolde many cares, numbred many passions, felt many sorrowes, vttred many sighes, shed many teares since Venus entertained me, with Roses at the first, & afterwarde beate me with Nettles, I haue found loue to be a Labyrinth, a fury, a hell, wherein men aliue feele worse paines then those ghostes that pay Charon hier for his ferriboat: grœned thus, yet as one in a lunacie: I neuer fore-sawe my miseries. I heard many counsailes, and read many preceps, but al in vaine, yet for that time hath many chaunces, the Fates their Canons tied to opportunitie. Fortune her decrées variable, and loue, many accidents: I will humbly craue what thou hast offered, promising to be attentiue and not ingratefull, as farre as a strangers abilitie may gratifie.

The Shepheard without further promising or longer delay, began thus.

Thou seest that I sitte heere fæding my flocks by Erecinus,

cinus, whether daily resorte multitudes of amorous Pilgrims suing to Venus for releefe of their passions, but how she vsed these fond and perplexed patients, as it pities mee to rehearse, so it wil grieue thee to heare. Those youthes whose yeeres more then their mindes, are fryed with a small flame of ordinarie fancie, rather inserted by nature then inferred by loue, such she entertaineth most sumptuously, as fittest obiects for her to worke vpon, putting oyle in the flame, fire to flay, and beautie as the balefull obiect to youth, for she knowing the olde verse to bee too true for her to disproue, Quod latit ignotum est: ignoti nulla Cupido, that, what is secret from vs we neuer desire to inueagle them with her charmes, she present beutie excellent by nature, yet far more gorgious by arte: faire faces, smiling lookes, alluring gestures sweet speeches, these are the baites that she layes to intrap, & youth is so fond that he cannot but taste, resembling the poore Mouse, that feedeth soonest on the most infectious Rosalger, respecting the colour, not the confection, after once shee hath gotten youth limed fast on her twigges, then Cupid vseth them as marks, and at euery shoote galleth to the quicke, that the woundes cannot be cured, till eyther we finde remedie by repentance, which oft cõmeth too late, or haue a quittance by death, which they thinke commeth too soone. Others, that haue beene stale stayers in her Court, spending their time in sighes, teares, and many dispayring passions, such shee feedeth on with delayes, giuing thẽ one day an incarnatiue to heale, and the next day a contrary medicine to fester, choking theyr sences with perfumes, and straight stifling them with Hemlock, suffering theyr Ladies in the morning to wash their temples with Rose-water, and at night to quaffe to them gall and vinegar, shadowing smiles with frownes, sower lookes with wanton actions, fettering them with the wings of hope, but hanging dispaire at their heeles, least soaring too hie, they should seaze & catch their pray:

ſuppoſe ſhe ſets thē on the top of her wheele, where, poore man I know thou deſireſt to be plaſte, and for their long trauell, ſhe giues them with Ixion a clowde, a faire dame I mean, as ſhee beſtowed vpon Paris, yet ſhalt thou finde, that ſhe fetcheth all her virgins from the fountain of Alcydalion, (beleeue me Pilgrim I will not warrant theyr maidenheads) becauſe thou ſeeſt they haue many eyes, and many harts, which haue many fancies, and many lures, and truſt me Pilgrime, many cauſes muſt needes bring out ſome effects: But leauing theſe doubts as may not onee haue entrance into Louers thoughts, and affirming that all are virgins that come from Venus, for Diana hath ſo few in her traine, that ſhe marries not one in ſeauen yeares, whē the louer hath what he long ſought for, he findes not the faireſt Chriſtall but hath his ſtaine, the brighteſt topar but hath his ſpot, the richeſt Gold, but hath his ore, and the pureſt creature feminine I meane: but hath her common imperfection, either proud without profite, and thats a purgation for the Purſe, or fayre without wit, and that is to marry a woodden picture with a golden creaſt, full of fauour but flattering, and ſo he may reape many kiſſes and little loue, chrewiſh, deceitfull, wilfull, fond, new fangle, and what not: nay, perhaps proue ſo light in the braines, that ſhe make him ſwell in the browes, that as he hath beene in his youth a votary to Venus, ſo in his age he may proue a companion to Vulcan, and Pilgrim quoth the Shepheard, this is to ſitte on the toppe of Venus wheele, theſe bitter ſauces be her cheefeſt delicates, and theſe painted Sepulchers her richeſt trophies. Thou ſeeſt I ſit neere Erecinus, and therfore ſpeake by experience, thou ſaieſt to Venus thou art in loue, thou wouldeſt faine haue a wife frō Alcidalion, looke before thou leape, pry into Venus Cofers, and ſee what chaffer ſhe prouides for her chapmen, I haue counſayled, now reſts it in thee either to followe it with a momentary ſorrowing content, or to forſake it with a perpetu-

all

all pleasing mislike.

Hearing the cunning experienced swaine to discourse so roundly of the matter, I imagined either he had beene in loue, or an enemie to Venus, so that I demaunded of him if he would not haue men loue at all?

Yes quoth he, so they count Dianas virgins not Venus wantons: I replied she had very few or none, hee aunswered, had shee more suters, shee woulde prouide more maydes, but Venus spying them passe towards her Pallace, layeth such snares to intangle, such traps to intice, such charmes to bewitch, such dangers to preiudice, that none or very few ariue at Dianas mantion, and such as do: come thither halfe maimed.

Then quoth I, you conclude peremptorily against Venus and her crue, and very hardly against women. Hearing me say so, he tooke me by the hande, & softly whispering in mine eare, Pilgrim I may say to thee, Wiues be they neuer so watcht they will: Maides be they neuer so bashfull they wish, and widdowes bee they neuer so coy, they would, take me not generally Pilgrime quoth hee, and with that sitting downe he toke his pipe in his hand, and plaid so sweetly, that like Argus at Mercuries melodie I fell on sleepe.

No sooner had Morpheus shut mine eyes, but I fell into a dreame, mee thought I was ledde from Erecinus by Mercury, alongst the galapin or siluer paued way of heauen to the hie built house of Ioue, there woulde I haue gazde at the gorgious buildings, but my guide was in haste, and conducted me into the great Hall, wher Iupiter and the rest of the Gods were at a banquet, no soner was I entred amongst them, but Mercury sprinkled me with water, which made me capaple of their diuine presence, so ỳ I sat stil loking on their persons, and listning to their parle, at last me thought blunt Vulcan that sat at ỳ lower end of the boord, although Venus aboue, sat opposite to Mars, beganne thus roughly to breake silence: I cannot

mighty Gods but ſmile to thinke that when my wife and her blind Sonne, the one with her boxe of beauties, the other with his quiuer of Arrowes, paſſe abroade to ſhewe their Deities: what number of poore perplexed men as Patients come to haue cure of their hurts, ſome in their eyes, that haue gazed with the Phyloſopher againſt too bright a Sunne, and ſuch are blind: ſome that with Vliſſes haue not ſtopped their eares, but haue liſtened the Syrens, and they complaine of their hearing: ſome in their harts, and thoſe bewraies their paſſions by their grones: none comes without greefe, nor returne throughly cured, ſo that I ſuppoſe either the wounds are very perilous, or my wife a bad Surgion. Truth (quoth Iupiter) but what number of women come hether: Multitudes (quoth Vulcan) Apollo ſmoothly and yet with a ſmile, demaunded if they were as bad to cure as men: No (quoth Vulcan) for be the wound neuer ſo deepe, tis perfectly cured in twelue houres, eyther my wife is more friendly to Women, or their ſores more eaſie to ſalue. No (quoth Mercury) it is becauſe their loues are like a mans breath againſt bright ſteele, which ſcarſe lighteth on before it leapeth off, or like wood wet in Allom water, which lieth in the fire and wareth hot, but neuer burneth: their harts reſemble a Pumice ſtone, light: & which way ſoeuer you turne it: full of ſtarting holes, that if fancy ſteale in at the one, he can ſcape out at the other: or els quoth Iupiter, their harts haue no holes at all, but as firme as flint, that neither fancy nor loue can enter, for Venus teacheth them extremities, eyther to fawne & be too fond, or to be too coy and too ſtubborne, which cauſeth ſo many to put vp inuectiues againſt her. Leaſt of all (quoth the Goddeſſe,) in a great chafe hath Iupiter cauſe to accuſe women of cruelty, if not, I appeale to Iuno, at this all the company ſmiled and Ioue was ſilent, well (quoth Apollo,) leauing theſe quips ſeeing we haue met to be merry, if it pleaſe you to allow of my motion, to make vs ſome muſicke, I will

raiſe

raiſe vp the Ghoſts of Orpheus and Arion, two, famous in their times for their inſtruments, and greatly experienced in Loue, as beeing great trauailers, and with that conuerſing the greateſt Potentates in the world, who often are as full of loues as they are of dignities: theſe ſhall pleaſe vs with harmony, and diſcourſe either what they thinke, or what they haue heard of womens Loues: To this all the Gods gladly agrēde, and Mercury was ſent in Poſt to Pluto for theſe two Muſitians, ſcarſe had I thought Mercury had bēne out of the Hall, before I ſaw enter with this winged God the Ghoſts of Orpheus and Arion, ſo liuely to the eye, and ſo well truſſed in their apparell as they ſēmed perfectly ſuch as they were when they liued vpon earth: Orpheus after that he had donne due reuerence to the Gods, eſpecially to Apollo: tuning his inſtrument without any more commaund, as if his ſeruice ſhould be ſaluery, hee daintily toucht the Cordes with a ſweete ſtroake, and to a melodious tune, ſung this Ditty.

Orpheus Song.

HE that did ſing the motions of the ſtarres,
Pale colour'd Phæbus borrowing of her light:
Aſpects of planets oft oppos'd in iarres,
Of Heſper Henchmen to the day and night.
Sings now of Loue as taugh by proofe to ſing:
Women are falſe and loue a bitter thing.

I lou'd Euridicæ the brighteſt Laſſe,
More fond to like ſo faire a Nymph as ſhe:
In Theſaly, ſo bright none euer was,
But faire and conſtant hardly may agree.
Falſe harted wife to him that loued thee well:
To leaue thy loue and chooſe the Prince of hell.

Theſeus

Theſeus did helpe, and I in haſt did hie,
To Pluto, for the Laſſe I loued ſo:
The God made graunt, and who ſo glad as I,
I tunde my Harpe, and ſhee and I gan goe,
Glad that my loue was left to me alone.
I looked back, Euridicæ was gone.

She ſlipt aſide backe to her lateſt loue,
Vnkinde ſhee wrong'd her firſt and trueſt Feere,
Thus womens loues, delights as tryall proues,
By falſe Eurydycæ I loued ſo deere.
To change, and fleete, and euery way to ſhrinke,
To take in loue, and loſe it with a winke.

SCarſe had Orpheus ended his ſong, but Iupiter thinking not to let ſo faire a ball fall to the grounde: tooke opportunitie thus by the hand.

This preſent Dittie of Orpheus tendeth to our forepaſſed diſcourſe, as though the Fates had forepointed our talke, and this arriuall conſequence of their infallible decrees: ſith then the vnkindnes of Euridicæ diſcouers the inconſtancie of women, & that Orpheus hath by his ſundry paſſions made an Anatomy of loue: let vs heare hys opinion howe hee cenſures of beautie. Apollo at Iupiters motion commaunded Orpheus, who not amaſed (as a Ghoſt come from hell) began thus. The Queſtion right mighty Gods is eaſie, for that commonly all gaze at beauty as at the faireſt obiect that flattereth the eye, yet a thing perilous, howſoeuer it ſeemes precious: ſeeing the faireſt Lawnes ſooneſt take the deepeſt ſtaines, the brighteſt Beralles the greateſt flawes, and oftentimes the faireſt faces with intollerable faults: Greece vaunted not ſo much of her beautifull paragon, as Troy lamented of their inceſtuous ſtrumpet, men came to Rome to ſee Meſſalines beauty, but Rome ſorrowed that ſhee was counted a Harlot: Theſſaly rung of Euridites proportion,

but

but Theſſaly ſhamed and Orpheus grieued at her bad condition, and yet forſooth though we find beauty thus preiudiciall, yet we muſt leape at it, though to our vtter ruine we light in the ditch: But as the fiſh Ramera liſtning to the ſound of the trumpet, is caught of the Fiſhers: as the Porcupine ſtandeth ſtaring at the glimmering of the Starres, and is ouertaken with dogges: as the Leopard looking at the Panthers painted ſkinne, is caught as a pray: ſo he which taketh too much delight to gaze vppon beautie, is oft times galled with greefe and miſery: yea, his pleaſure ſhall inferre ſuch profite, and his good will ſuch gaines, as if hee reapt the beautifull Apples of Tantalus, which are no ſooner toucht, but they turne to aſhes.

Beautie no ſooner flouriſheth but it fadeth, and it is not fully ripe, but it beginneth to rotte: it no ſooner bloſſometh, but it withereth: and ſcarcely being toucht, it ſtayneth like the Guiacum leafe, that hath the one halfe parched before the other halfe be perfect, to the Birde Acauthis, which hatched white, yet turneth blacke at the firſt ſtorme: Or like to the ſtone Aſtites, that changeth coulour with the onely breath of a man: this (right mightie Gods) is my cenſure of beautie, that vnleſſe ioyned with vertue, it is like the feathers of the Phenix, placed in the carkaſſe of a Crow, but where faith and feature are Relatiues, that beauty I call diuine and metaphiſica, for becauſe gratior eſt pulchro veniens è corpore virtus. Thys diſcourſe of Orpheus all the Gods applauded except Venus, Iuno brookt it as hauing loſt the Ball, and Venus thought it was beſt to pocket vp whatſoeuer a Ghoſt out of hell did tattle, and ſo I would haue all faire Gentlewomen to take it: well, ſo well did the Gods like and allow of his talke, that Iupiter queſtioned him what hee thought generally of women: Orpheus neither forcing Iuno nor Venus, as one that could but goe to hell, boldly made anſwer, that their generall ſex ſtood vpon two extreames, either too curteous or too cruell, and that he had made expe-

ence of both, and which quoth Iupiter are the worſt? I note (quoth Orpheus) if your queſtion tendes towardes men, becauſe my particuler inſtance may be no generall Example, but this well I wot, crueltie hath the greateſt puniſhment appointed for it in hell, which may it pleaſe you and the reſt of the Gods to be attentiue, I will proue with a knowne hiſtory. The Gods ſetling themſelues in their ſeates, ſhewed by their ſilence how they lik'd of his motion, whereupon Orpheus began thus.

Orpheus Tale.

SInce the mad frowes of Bacchus (in that I was ſworn an enemy to women through the vnkindnes of Euridicæ,) ſtoned me to death while I ſate playing muſicke to the Rockes, which ſeemed to moue at my melody: my ſoule ſent to Pluto, I founde fauour at his handes for that he wronged me of my wife, that I had frée liberty to paſſe into euery ſeuerall mancion: wherupon one day with my Harpe I walked through ſeuerall places, and heard ſeuerall complaints, but at the laſt I came to a thicke fogge, the ſmoake and ſtench ſo deadly and peſtilent, as all the ghoſts in hell, reſpecting this dungeon, ſeemed to liue in Eliſium, out of this miſt I heard the voice of a woman, vttering pittifull ſhrikes, hauing remorſe of her paſſions, I toucht my Harpe, and plaid, thinking while my muſicke laſted, to make her forget her torments, as I had done the other ghoſts in hell, but ſhe told me all was in vaine, ſith as her faulte exceeded all, ſo her torture was more then they all: for here quoth ſhe I hang by the haire of ỹ heade in ſo thicke a ſmoake and ſtinking a fog, as no tongue can expreſſe, nor imagination conceiue it. Deſirous to heare the cauſe of this ſtrange extreame, I aſkt her name, and the offence, ſhee wiſht mee halfe angerly to ceaſe my fidling, and ſhe would diſcourſe at large: I put vp my pipes

at

at ſuch a dry blowe, and ſhee murmured out of the fogge thus.

I am Lidia that renowned Princeſſe, whoſe neuer matched beauty ſeemed like the gorgious pompe of Phœbus, too bright for the day: rung ſo ſtrongly out of the trumpe of Fame, as it filled euery eare with wonder: Daughter to Aſtolpho, the King of Lydia: who thought himſelfe not ſo fortunate for his Diadem, ſith other Kings could boaſt of Crownes: nor for his great poſſeſſions, although indued with large territories, as happy that hee had a Daughter whoſe excellencie in fauour ſtained Venus, whoſe auſtere chaſtitie ſet Diana to ſilence with a bluſh: Know whatſoeuer thou art that ſtandeſt attentiue to my tale, that ỹ ruddieſt Roſe in all Damaſco, the whiteſt Lillies in the creeks of Danuby, might not if they had united their natiue colours, but haue baſhed at the vermilion ſtaine, flouriſht vppon the pure Chriſtall of my face: the Marguerites of the weſterne Indies counted more bright and rich, then that which Cleopatra quaft to Anthonie, the Corall higheſt in his pride vppon the Affricke ſhoares, might well be graced to reſemble my teeth and lippes, but neuer honoured to ouerreach my purenes. Remaining thus the mirrour of the World, and natures ſtrangeſt miracle: there arriued in our Court a Thracian Knight, of perſonage tall, proportioned in moſt exquiſite forme, his face but too faire for his qualities, for hee was a braue and reſolute Souldiour. This Cauelier comming amongſt diuers others to ſee the roiallie of the ſtate of Lidia, no ſooner had a glaunce of my beautie, but he ſet downe his ſtaffe, reſoluing either to perriſh in ſo ſweet a Labyrinth, or in time happily to ſtumble out with Theſeus. Hee had not ſtaide long in my Fathers Court, but hee ſhewed ſuch Knightly deeds of chiualrie amongſt the nobilitie, lightned with the extraordinary ſparkes of a couragious minde, that not onely hee was liked and loued of all the chiefe Peeres of the Realmes, but the report of his

valoure comming to my Fathers eares, hee was highly honored of him, & placed in short time as Generall of his warlike forces by Land: resting in this estimation with the King, preferment was no meanes to quiet his minde, for loue had wounded so deepe, as honour by no meanes might remedy, that as the Elephants can hardly bee haled from the sight of the Wast, or the Roe buck from gazing at red cloth, so there was no obiect that could so much allure the wauering eyes of this Thracian called Acestes, as the surpassing beautie of the Princesse Lydia, yea, so deepely he doted, that as the Camelion gorgeth herselfe with gazing into the ayre, so he fedde his fancie with staring on the heauenly face of his Goddesse, so long dallying in the flame, that he scorcht his wings, & in time consumed his whole body. Beeing thus passionate, hauing none so familiar as he durst make, hee fell thus to debate with himselfe.

Is it Alcestes loue that troubles thee? why thou art a Souldiour, sworne to armes, not to Armour: to incounter foes in the fælde, not to courte Ladies in the Chamber: Hercules had almost performed his twelue labours, ere he durst find leysure to loue, and thou art scarse acquainted with Mars, but thou sækest to be priuate friend to Venus: away fond fole, to thy Speare and Shielde, manage thy horse, though here in a peaceable Countrey: let not Bees hiue in thy Helmet, rust inblaze the figure of scoath on thy Armour, or loue call thee her milksoppe, by whom warre it selfe hath approued martiall: hast thou forgotte that which thou suckest out of thy Nurses teate, that to loue is to lose, and fancie bee it neuer so charie, is meere folly: for loue how soeuer it bee, is but a Chaos of cares: and fancie though neuer so fortunate, hath her crosses: for if thou inioy the beauty of Venus, thou shalt finde it small vantage: if thou get one as nice as Minerua, thou mayst put thy winnings in thine eye: if as gorgious as Iuno, thy account being cast, thy sums will be rated with losse:

yea

yea, be thée chaſt, be thée vertuous, be thée curteous, conſtant, rich, renowned, honeſt, honourable, yet if thou be wedded to a woman, thinke thou ſhalt finde in her ſufficient vanity to counteruaile her vertue: aſſure thy ſelfe neuer to liue leſſe without diſquiet, nor die before thou haue cauſe to repent: which Craterus the Emperour noted, when wiſhing that ſome ſiniſter miſfortune might befall his foe: he prayed vnto the Gods he might be married in his youth, and dye without iſſue in his age: accounting mariage by this wiſh, farre more full of preiudice, then of pleaſure. This, yea all this Aceſtes thou knoweſt to be true: but ſuppoſe it were not, is there not ſufficient to diſſwade? beſide, ſeeſt thou not? or hath fancy caſt ſuch a maſke before thine eyes, that thou wilt not ſée? that her beauty as it is excellent, ſo it is high ſeated: both in the dignity of her parentage, & the ſelfe conceite of her mind, to be gazed at, and ſo honored: not to be reacht at and ſo enioyed, thou ſeeſt ſhe is little liberall of her lookes, much leſſe prodigall of her loue: ſhe couets rather a God, then a man: thē amongſt men think ſhe wil aime at the higheſt, or ſit ſtill as ſhe is: Pride in her greateſt pompe ſits inthrond in her eyes, and diſdaine in her lookes: that if ſhe glaunce to ſo low as Aceſtes, it is rather to grace him with a ſmile then to ſhew him any fauour: beſide, fortune hath oppoſed her ſelfe to thy aſpiring thoughts, in that thy good will hath not yet deſerued any ſuch guerdon: thy deſire, is farre aboue thy deſert: and the poore ſtay of a wandring Knight, farre vnfitte for the Princely ſtate of worthy Lidia: But ſuppoſe ſhe were pricked in the ſame veine, and that Venus would friendly inſtill ſome drops of her inchaunted water to mollifie her hart, yet ỳ Duke her Father will neither condiſcend to her mind, nor conſent to my motion: nay if he ſhould but heare of ſuch reckles folly, as he hath wrought my promotion, ſo hee would worke my confuſion: and in troth Aceſtes, not without cauſe: for art thou ſo voyde of vertue, or vowde to vice, as

to requite his liberality with such disloyalty: to returne the trust which hee reposeth in thée with such treachery: Tush, Loue is aboue Lord or law, friend or faith, where Loue buddeth, no Maister is made account off, no King cared for, no friend feared of, no duty respected: but all things done according to the quality that is predominant. Hast thou béene a Souldiour, and dreamest thou of such doubts? are the courtings of Venus, more perrillous then the incounters of Mars? or the deniall of a Lady, worse then the daunt of a foe: no Aceſtes, be not faint harted as the North Ilands, where the people Iberi dwell foster no venemous beast, nor the Sea called Mare mortuum fœdeth no Fish, so are there no Cowards suffered to arriue at Paphos, she is but a woman, and therefore to be wone: Then sound on the march, aske not of what degrée she is, but where she is: these words Aceſtes (carry emphasis) and are more fit for a Souldier then for a Louer: for loue is queſie, and if it be ouer-strained, cracketh at the first wrest: enduring in this doubt, he sat downe déepely ouercharged with melancholy passions: that as he which eateth of the Gword Nutte, loseth his memory: and as the Elephant féeding on the Helytropian becommeth sléepy: so Aceſtes fell into a drowsie kind of contemplature, that to auoide such cogitations as combred his minde, hee got him selfe into a Gallery which was built betweene the Turrets of the house, and there sette himselfe downe as halfe in a traunce: Loue, that toke pitty of this patient, so fauourd him, that he had not sat long in his dumps but that Lidia came thither all alone to be solitary, who séeing Aceſtes sitting thus sadly slumbring, determined for her owne recreation to be a little pleſant with him, and therfore awakened him thus.

Why how now Aceſtes, is it your custome in Thracia to vse slumbers after meat for Phisick? or is it some melancholy impression that thus amateth your sences? trust me at the first I called to remembrance the picture that

Zerxis

Zerxſis drew of Endimion, lying vpon the mount of Erecinus, who leaning his head on his hand, his eyes ſhutte as one in a dreame: yet had his face ſo bedued with diſtilling teares, as his outward plaints did ſufficiently bewray his inward paſſions: and ſo Aceſtes, in this thy ſolitary dumpe didſt thou reſemble Endimion, both in countenance and colour, that had teares fallen from thine eyes as thou wert in a traunce? I had happily demaunded how Phebe had vſed thee: So apalde was Aceſtes at this ſodaine preſence of Lidia, that hee ſat ſtill as a man depriued of his ſences: till at the laſt gathering of his wittes together he ſtart vp, and his due reuerence done, he made this anſwere.

I think Madam that melancholy is not particuler either to perſon or place, but that being a complexion, it followeth oft-times the quality of the affection: ſo that the mind any way diſtreſt, the body muſt yeld in effect to the moſt precious part: I confeſſe therefore, that being diſquiet at my hart, I felt mine eyes heauy, as they which were the cheefeſt procurers of my malady: but when I awoke and ſawe your excellency, both your preſence and curteſie greatly daunted my mind: your preſence, in dazeling mine eyes ſo ſuddenly with ſo ſolemne an obiect: your curteſie, in that your Ladyſhippe without curioſitie would vouchſafe to talke with ſo mean a Gentleman: but I ſee the beſt fruite hath the braueſt bloſſomes: the moſt precious ſtone, is choſen by the moſt gliſtering hue, and the beſt conditions, by the ſweeteſt countenance: ſo that where beauty raigneth, there vertue remaineth: and vnder a faire face reſteth a faithfull hart: But whereas you ſay you had taken mee for Endimion by my penitrature & countenance, but that I wanted teares to decipher my ſorrow: I anſwer, that the hotteſt thunders are not euer quenched with raine, nor the deepeſt greefes euer diſcouered by teares: the ſtone Garatides fryeth without and is cold within, the Germander leaſt when it is moſt full

of

of moisture, loketh then most dry: where the sea is most deepe, there it is most calme: & where is the smallest shew of teares, there oft are the greatest effect of sorrow: For trust me Madam, I thinke Endimion sighing for the absence of his Lady Luna, neuer felt more bitter passions on the mount Erecinus, then I suffered in this halfe waking slumber: why (quoth Lidia) are you in loue? Acestes at this question fetcht a deepe sigh, as it seemed his heart strings should haue crackt in sunder, he stood as one in an extasie, doubting whether nowe hee should take time by the fore-head, or to defer it till afterward: well, seeing opportunity so fit, he boldly toke hart at grace, and began to giue this encunter.

They (Madame) that seeke to stop the swift running Volgo, a Riuer that leadeth into Persia, by staying the streame, maketh the flood flow more fiercely: to represse the fier, is to encrease the flame: and to conceale loue, is to smother smoake in the nosethrill, which either wil out, or els stifleth: wounds fed of with delayes fester, and oft proue incurable: fancy long held in the grasse, seldome proues a timely Haruest: which makes me to set my hazard on the Dice, and either presently to heare the curteous sentence of my life, or the cruell doome of my death. Since most excellent Princesse, I arriued at the Court of Lidia, so hath mine eyes fed on the beauty of your face, mine eares wrapt in admiration of your deuine wit, my mind inchaunted with the consideration of your vertues, and my hart as the receptacle of all these excellencies, so deuoted to the substance that contriues such supernaturall qualities, that the exceeding pleasure, which so long luld mee in delight, at length suncke so deepe, that they grew to greeuous passions: to say all (what I could at large discourse) in on worde, so long did I gaze at your beauty, that I was snared, and so long did I admire your vertue, that now I rest your Captiue: so farre Madame entred the Labarinth, that either I must perrish with the

Wyno-

Minotaure, or els humbly craue your ayde, that the clue of your mercy may hale me forth of such an intricate danger.

Lidia, who swelled in choller at these speeches, coulde not brooke to heare vp the ende of his discourse, but faring like angry Ioue, who in his rage coureth the beautifull Skye with a world of stormes, so she incensed with disdaine, filled her sweet countenaunce with a shaddowe of bitter frownes, knitting her browes she beganne thus to reply.

Why gentle maister Knight, hath too much familiaritie bredde contempt? are you such a good Phisiognomer, that you haue insight into my wrincle in the browe and dimple in the cheekes? I see well if Apelles that cunning Painter, suffer the greasie Sowter to take a view of his curious worke, hee will growe so malapart as to meddle with his picture, that he must be thrust into his shop with Ne sutor vltra crepidum, if the proude Centaur Ixion bee bidden to the feast of the Gods, no lesse then Iuno herselfe will suffice him for his choyce.

Set a Begger on horsebacke, and they say he will neuer light: extoll one of base stock to any degree of dignitie, and who so proud and hautie: I speake this Aceste to thy reproofe, for that my Father hath made thee generall of his forces, seekest thou to maister him in fortune: will no dyet downe but my Fathers owne Dish? no meaner mate suffise vnlesse thou marry with a Prince? Dyd my Father preferre thee, and now wilt thou presume to bee his better? haue my lookes beene so louing, my glaunces so full of good will, as to promise so much as thou dost presume? no, but the least countenaunce of familiaritie to a seruile minde, procureth great incouragement: hast thou euer noted any of my actions so base, that thou mightest think I would match with a man of thy calling? Haue I wantond it so euer in thy sight, as thou mightst think mee fit for Venus? But suppose my minde were so fonde, as I

would (soring so hie as euer I haue done) stoope nowe so low: thinkest thou my Father coulde affoorde thee his Daughter Lidia, whom he farre priseth aboue his crowne: hopest thou to compasse his consent: No, but if he knewe of thy daring presumtion, he would repay thy follie with such punishments, as thy aspiring thoughts doe merrit: hee woulde vnplume thee of all thy feathers: and like Esops Crowe turne thee naked to the woorlde: that they which grudged at thy hastie promotion, might laugh at thy sudaine fall: if therfoore thou loue thine owne welfare, keepe thy selfe within thy bounds: least in soaring with the Hobby, to fall to the geound with the Larke: and in daring with Phaeton, thou fal headlong into such infirmities, as thou shalt neuer be able to creepe out of: and with that she flung away in a great rage, and left Acestes passing passionate: so that hee sate him downe againe more melancholie then he was before: musing and meditating vppon the cruell resolution of Lidia, slumbring thus on his harde foortune, vppon a suddaine hee fell into these tearmes.

But by the sweete, how should wee know the sower: the white seemeth most siluer hued when it is adioyned to blacke: and prosperitie is most sweetest when it hath beene fore-crossed with aduersity. This principle perhaps Lidia meanes to make me try by experience, thinking to fede mee first with bitter broathes, that after, dainty fare may more delight me: for the chilling colde of Winter, makes the Sommers Sun more pleasant: and the frowning lookes of Lidia, will cause her smiles to seeme more cheerefull. Then Acestes cease not to pursue thy sute, vntill thou finde her more curteous, or resolutely vowed to remaine obstinate.

Thus like a valiant Champion, Acestes neuer feared that millike hung in Womens browes, and into their harts hee could not pry: but hoped the best, and sought for opportunitie to iterate his sute in this distresse. But Foo-

tune

Fortune meaning pleasantly to sport with this young novice, would not minister such fitte occasion that hee might haue sole and solitary accesse to his Goddesse: for Lidia vpon pretended purpose, so warily auoided his companie: and with such disdainfull lookes rewarded his proffered dutie, that Acestes was faine to aime his course by a new compasse, and therefore getting into his Chamber, stepping to his standish, he wrote her a Letter to this effect.

Acestes to the beautifull Princesse Lidia, wisheth what shee desires.

Such as take surfeite by feeding too greedily on the Hony combes of Hibla, seeke cure by tasting ouermuch of the sweete suger Canes in Candi. The Phalanga stingeth deadly, and his venome can bee drawne out onely by rubbing ouer the place with golde. They which fall sicke of Loue, must haue potions ministred by fancie & charmes from Venus to tie about their temples, or els come Apollo with all his drugs: the patient will returne him thys answer. Nullis amor est medicabilis Herbis. I speak thys sweet Princesse, as a patient troubled with the same passions: for so deeply haue I imprinted the rich Carracters of your exquisite perfections, in the closet of my thoughts; that neither mine owne endeuour seeling I haue aspyred too hie, nor your rigor checking me I am borne to lowe, serueth any way to race out those Ideas which so firmelie I haue conceiued: I seeke to suppresse loue with reason: and I finde that I quench fire with Flaxe: I vse absence, that is Oyle in the flame: I frequent cõpany, their talke is tedious vnto mée: I seeke to be solitarie, oh then as in visions your sweete selfe is present, as that celestiall obiect whereon mine eye coueteth to gaze, and my minde to meditate. Sith then Madame, your beautie hath made me surfeit, let your curteous bountie cure my disease: re-

iect him not so rigorously that regardeth you with such reuerence: poore Knights haue their loues not in their own willes, but as Loue and Fortune pleaseth to allot: some gaze hie and stumble not, as Vulcan whē he courted Venus, some looke low and gaine not, as Eumenides, that maried a Farmers daughter that proued vnchast: sure I am howsoeuer I shall spēde, it will be more honor for mee to perrish in her desires, then liue in base fortunes. Then Madam, seeing my loue is like to ỳ stone Lincostis, which the lowder the winde bloweth, and the deeper they are drencht in the water, the more they burne & blaze: so the more you seeke to coole my fancie with disdaine, the more my affection is kindled with desire: the greater dispayre you driue mee into by denials, the greater hope incouraged by cōstancie I haue to obtaine my requests: in which feruent affection I meane to remaine without change, craning in liew of this my loialtie, that I may bee admitted by degrees into your fauor, euen as my deserts in loue shall merrit, which shall be as the blisse of heauen to him that pineth away, and as yours onely and euer.

Still in hope
Acestes.

THis Letter conueid with great spēde and no lesse secrecy to Lidia beeing then solitary in her Chamber, who receiuing them, vnripping the seales, sawe no sooner the name of Acestes, but shee perceiued he was importunate in his old sute: which droue her into such a fury, as at the first shee flung away his Letter in great disdaine, vpbrayding him of immoderate presumption, that durst attempt the loue of such a Paragon: so that throughly inflamed with choller, shee stept hastily to the Letter and red it, which after shee had perused, falling into a satyricall scoffing kinde of vaine, shee rudely returned him this aunswere.

To

To her new found Louer *Aceſtes*, the great Knight of Thracia, Health.

SWéete Sir, I receiued your paſſionate Letters, and pitty them as the inhabitants of Labia Labozinth do the paſſengers that perriſh on their ſhelues, whom they gaze on, but neuer relæue: your witty inuention tels me that you are ſtung with the Phalanga, and ſo are in loue: take it the moze patiently, foz no doubt the ſerpent was Venus meſſenger, els had ſhe not fancy in ſtéed of infecti-on: But alas, your malady cannot be cured but by my meanes: know then braue Cauelier of Thracia, that my cunning is too ſmall to enterpziſe the compoſition of any ſecret ſimples, and my calling too great to become a Phiſition to ſuch a paltring Patient: ſo that I neyther can noz will cure any other mans diſeaſe by being pzeiu-diciall to mine owne ſafety, but gentle ſir thinke me not cruell: foz it is the influence of the ſtarres, & the effectes of nature that maketh theſe contrarieties, as hauing op-poſde vs in the calculation of our natinity, foz as the Panther cannot abide the company of the Dwnce, as the Vulture is moztall enemy to the Eagle, and the blood of a Lyon & a Wolfe can neuer be mixed in one bowle, ſo as impoſſible it is by requeſts, be they neuer ſo ruthfull to become thy friend, which by the deſtinies and inſtinct of nature am thy moztall foe. Ceaſe then to accuſe mee of cruelty, and leaue off to appeale to my curteſie, foz thou ſhalt alwayes be ſure to finde the one, and neuer to feele the other; yet leaſt thou ſhould condemne Lidia of ingra-titude, who euer was bountifull to her greateſt foes, though I cannot inwardly mittigate thy miſery, yet I wil outwardly teach thee to apply ſuch playſters, as if the experience of them approue true, ſhal greatly appeaſe thy paine: It is reported that he which drinketh of the ri-

uer Auerna, coleth and mortifieth his affections, but if the water be tought by any meanes before it be drunke, the vertue thereof is of no value. He that weareth the fethers of the bird Exalon about him, shal euer be fortunate in his loue, but if they be not puld when the Sunne is eclipsed: they are of no force, and to be briefe there is nothing that soner driueth away amorous conceits, thē to rub the temples of thy head with the sweate of an Asse, which if you can performe, as no doubt you may put in practise, feare not but you shall count my Phisicke authenticall. Thus gentle knight of Thracia, you haue heard my mind, and so I warn you to wade no further, least I haue cause to laugh and you to repent.

Lidia of Lidia resolued to mislike of Acestes of Thracia.

THis Letter shee sent by one of her Gentlewomen to Acestes, who no soner read the contents, but the disdaine of his Goddesse stroke such a colde dumpe to his hart, that hee sat as the picture of Pigmalion, when the poore caruer leaned with great passion on his marble mistresse: his thoughts were on dispaire, his musings on dispaire, the obiects to his eyes, sounded the vgly shadowe of dispaire: that as one lunatick, he said: Venus was the strumpet of Mars, the baude of Iupiter, the Patronesse of leachers: and that in all her Kingdome there was neyther loue nor vertue, but lust and vanity: I graunt (quoth he) she hath beauty to bestow, but so it is tempred with pride, as hee that buyes it doth penetentiam emere: shee hath many such truls as Helena to sell, but they were either so froward or so frolick, as feare may perswade them from the one, or turne them from the other: shee is Goddesse of womens hearts, but shee trickes them vp with such false colours, and engraues so many principles of her Philosophy, in the very center of it, that they are as

expert

expert in coyning of deceites, forging of teares, feigning of sighes, casting of lookes, lending of fauning smiles, and such preiudiciall pollicies to bewitch men, as euer the Caldees were in their diuinations, but this is, suffiseth not to reuenge me on her words, would she were mortall, thē would shee were Mars, that I might with my arming Sworde pearce their disdaine and ingratitude in single Combate.

As thus hee was halfe in a frensie, one came to him from the King with Letters, the contents whereof were, that he should make him ready with all possible spæde to passe into Pamphilia, to make inuasion with fire & sword: This newes come to Aceſtes view, as a man reuiued frō the dead, hes burst from his former plaints, and began thus to frolicke with him selfe: Now despight of Venus hath Fortune sworne to ioyne me in friendship with opportunity, now time proffers the full cup, and the deuill take me if I carowse it not: Now Lidia shall be mine if euer she shalbe to any: women are wonne with honors: the fame of Prowesse challengeth more then eloquence, a Souldiers sword preuaileth more with a Princesse, thē a Cowardes pen: when newes shall come to Lidia that Aceſtes hath made a conquest of Pamphilia, whē he sends the Kinges Crowne as a token to the faire and matchles Lidia, thē no doubt but she wil be as curteous, as now she is cruell: her lookes will lighten loue, where now they drop hate: her words will be welcome, where now they threten reuenge: Conquerers carry commaunds in their foreheads, and loue kneeles to them where others bow to loue: then Aceſtes ply thæ, martiall thy Souldiours in hast to Pamphilia, and there fight both for honor and loue, which either resolue to get or to misse of both with death: Hauing thus comforted him selfe, he prouided all things necessary for his voiage into Pamphilia, both of souldiers, money, victuals, and munition: which beeing ready: taking his leaue onelie of the King (for Lidia would

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not to be ſæne: then marched forwarde towardes Pamphilia.

No ſoner was he arriued within the Territories, but with fire and ſword he made ſuch furious inuaſion, that the poore Inhabitants thought Mars had bæne ſent to fill the Countrey with ſtratagems, the King hearing of this martiall Aceſtes, vnderſtanding what a warlike Knight he was, how hardy to attempt, how politique in placing the Squadrons of his men, not onely for aduantage of troups, but of ground: further being foure ſcore thouſand ſtrong in footmen at armes and horſe, he found his owne ſtrength vnable to withſtand him, that he ſent to ỳ Kings of Cylicia and Caria for ayde: who vnited with him in a league, brought downe with as great ſpæde as might be, their forces, and generally ſetting them in troupes, deuided them into thræ ſeueral Battalions, wherof the kings in perſon were Conducts: and ſo marching to mæt Aceſtes, they incountred him in the great plaine Reſena, there both Campes lay intrencht by the ſpace of thræ dayes, at laſt Aceſtes ſent out a few Horſe to dare them from their fortifications, which the Kings ſæing, aſhamde that one man of ſo baſe account, ſhould ſurpaſſe ſuch Princes in magnanimity and valour: iſſued out, and ordring their battailes brauely, gaue the charge: Aceſtes ſæing more then hee lookt for, doubled courage, and receiued them with ſuch reſolution, that the Cylicians and Kings of Caria wiſht they had kept ſafe in their Kingdomes: yet making no ſigne of doubt, they incouraged their men and renued the charge: but in vaine, for Aceſtes with a Cornet of Dimilaunce and men at armes, had broken into their maine battaile, that the troupes diſordered, they began to fly: they of Pamphilia brought in freſh men, but Aceſtes matched them with his ſpare Squadrons: that vtterly diſcomfited the: them Lidians began purſute, and made great ſlaughter, and many were ſlayne: the Kinges of Caria and Cylicia eſcapt, hee of Pamphilia was ſlayne, as

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fighting more venterously for that twas for his owne. Aceſtes, hauing the victory, ſounded the retraite, gaue hys Souldiours the ſpoile to encourage them, and one day reſt to eaſe them: the next he marched vp into the Countrey, poſſeſſed himſelfe of the kingdom to his Kings vſe, tooke the noble men ſworne to allegance, and in euery Towne of any ſtrength he placed gariſons: This done, he diſpatched Letters to his Soueraigne of his conqueſt, and ſent the crown of the king of Pamphilia to Lidia for a preſent: the meſſenger diſpatcht, he reſolued on reuenge, and beſide his Commiſſion went into Caria and Cylicia, where he ſet vp the like trophies, for hee made conqueſt of both the kingdoms, and brought the two Kinges, much treaſure, and many priſoners to Lidia. But while hee was in his warres, and iourneying homeward, the Letters came to the King, and the Crowne to his daughter: he receiued the one, ſhe ſcornfully reiected the other: but her Father was glad of ſuch newes, looking daily for the honouring of Aceſtes, who was the longer for his other victories.

Well, the day came, Aceſtes was entred Lidia, and the King as for his credite he coulde do no leſſe, did ſummon the Peeres of his Realme to meete at his Courte, which then he held in Raguſa, the principall Citty of his Dominions: whether they all repaired and prepared Juſtes, Turneyes, and Bariers, in tryumph of Aceſtes victories. It was not long but this luſtie warriour came to the Cittie with his ſpoyle, and entered the gates, where he was receiued of the Cittizens with great ſignes of ioy: paſſing through the ſtreetes as the auncient Romaine Dictators did in their triumphes, crowned with a Lawrell Garland, ſeated in a triumphing Chariot, he rode richly thorow the ſtreets with great ſhoutes and ſhowes to theyr Pallace: where diſmounting, hee marched like Mars or Hercules, attended on with two Kings, in ſuch portly and magnificall order, that the King and the nobles ſeeing him enter the Hall, where the King in a rich throne was ſea-

ted, and his Daughter on his right hand, were amazed, as noting in his face some extraordinary sparkes of Chiualrie: Acestes pacing vp to the steps that decended from the Kings seate, placing on eyther hande a King, began thus to deliuer his tale.

Right mightie Soueraigne, executing the charge of the Generall of thy forces against Pamphilia, as thy cõmaund and my allegance bad me, I entred with fire and sword, and by the helpe of Fortune made conquest of the Countrey, the King is slaine, his Crowne I sent to thy Daughter, the kingdom is garisond to thy vse: his confederates these two Kings of Caria & Cylicia, for that they vnited their supplies to his forces, I inuaded, conquered, and brought hither Captiues: their Crownes their kingdoms, the treasure, the bondslaues, for that they were without thy Commission, I not present to thee, but to the Princesse Lidia, with all the honour I won in the fielde, euer vowing to deuote all my thoughts, my actions, and my Sword and life, as prest to execute her commaunde and seruice: with that, rising vp, he led the Kinges to the Princesse, and deliuered them her as her Captiues, shee coulde not for shame in such a presence, but faine a good countenaunce, and accept them gratefully: whom shee forthwith presented to her Father, who entertaind them as belonged to such Kingly prisoners: all the Nobles casting their eyes on Acestes, as honouring the man for his vertues: the King starting vp, gaue him great thanks, and bad him demaunde somewhat before that honorable assemblie: with the gift whereof hee might gratifie him: swearing whatsoeuer he craued, as he was true King hee woulde performe it: Acestes hearing this happy motion, casting his eye on the Lady Lidia, boldly beganne his request thus.

Although right mighty Soueraigne, Crownes and kingdoms be swæte, and your grace hath willed mee to aske any thing without acception: yet for that I paunde

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my life & honor for the atchiuing of these conquests with my blood, which a Souldiour holdeth far deerer then Diadems, I little make account of such pelfe: but rather make choise of that which I prefer before honour, life, and land, or all the world, if it should be presented to me: and that is, the faire and vertuous Princesse Lidia. Scarce had Acestes vttered this worde Lidia, but the King starting from his seat, turned to his daughter, and asked what loue was passed betwixt her & Acestes. Such (quoth shee) with a frowning countenaunce, as past betwixt Iuno and the Centaure Ixion: I not deny, but before his iourney to Pamphilia, he courted and made great sute by worde, and letters, but howe I disdained the motion of so base a companion, let the aunswers of his Letters manifest: And nowe before this royall & honorable assembly I protest, if Acestes were featurde like Narcissus, as couragious as Hercules, hauing as many heroicall vertues as euer had any, and could present me euery day two Kings for Captiues till he made me Empresse of the World, yet woulde I disdaine him, as one vnworthy the Princesse Lidia. At this aunswere, all the assembly abashed, as counting the Princesse discourteous and ingrate: the King as a man inflamed with furie, began to prosecute his Daughters speech in this manner: Presumptuous Thracian, vnfitte with these late conquests, rather obtained by the ill fortune of these Kings, then thy prowesse: for thou hast done mee seruice, I graunt thee life, but for thyne aspyring thoughts to demaunde the Princesse Lidia, I discharge thee of thy Generalship, and absolutely of my seruice, cõmaunding thee vpon paine of death, within ten dayes to depart out of all my dominions, and neuer to approch my Confines or land. This saide, the King in great choller rose vp ready to depart, the Nobles were amazed and greeued, yea, and grudged secretly at Acestes wrong, but for feare of the King were silent: Acestes howsoeuer inwardly vexed, yet shewed no discontent in his counte-

nance, but with a Souldiers courage pulling of his Garland, said: I am not dismaied at this dome, for that I never græued at the ouerthwarts of Fortune: what I haue got in thy Court, I leaue, as disdaining ought ỳ is thine: the honour I haue wonne, is mine owne, and that thou canst not depriue me off, and so committing my fortunes to my deserts, I leaue thee and thy Court: and so soone as may be thy Country: where if euer I arriue, I dare thee to dw thy worst: and with that Acestes went away, and the King with the two Kings and the Lords, passed in to dinner.

No sooner was Acestes alone, but the ingratitude of the King, the disdaine of his Daughter, the disgrace offered by both, so pierst him to the hart, that as such as drink of Lethe become obliuious: so he forgetting the beauty of Lidia, fell to such dæpe thoughts of hate and reuenge, that he enioyned himselfe for a great space to be solitary, that Nemesis and he might consult together how to bring both the Father and the Daughter to confusion: at last hee resolued to goe to Armenia to Sertorius, there great Potentate of that Country, whom hæ knew to be mortall enemie to the King of Lidia, and in this resolution hæ tooke his iourney. No sooner was hee arriued in the Armenian Court, but worde was brought to Sertorius that Acestes the martiall Thracian, that conquered Pamphilia, Caria, and Cylicia, was come disguised, and as a stranger into his Court: the King hearing this, toke one or two of hys chæfe Lords, and went to salute Acestes, and to giue him honourable entertainement, such as belonged to so mightie a Cõquerer: Acestes perceiuing himselfe to be known, after due reuerence done to the King, began at large to discourse to him what seruice he had done to the King of Lidia, and how hee was rewarded, crauing succour and supply of his Paiestie, that hee might reuenge with hys Sworde. The King amazed at such monstrous ingratitude, wondring how such base resolutions coulde harbour

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in the hart of a Prince, he promised Aceſtes not onely to ayde him with an army of approued Souldiers, but in perſon to hazard him ſelfe, both to requite olde iniuries: and to repraue in iuſtice ſuch an abuſe offred without deſert. This anſwer of Sertorius ſo contented Aceſtes, that after great thanks, hee reſted in the Court, paſſing frolicke, til the forces were furniſhing: which no ſoner were ready, but without delay Sertorius and Aceſtes marched merrily forwarde towardes the confines of Lidia, as ſone as Aceſtes had ſette his foote within the ground of the ingratefull King, drawing his Sword, hee ſwore not to ſheathe it, till hee had made it drunke with the blood of Lidians, commaunding his Souldiers (for Sertorius had giuen him the ordring of the battailes) that they ſhould vſe all extremeties of martiall, burne, ſack, ſpoile Cittiss, Townes, and Caſtles, to caſt all to the ground, to take none Captiues of whatſoeuer degrée or ſex, but to put all to the Sword: men as they were ſubiects in Lidia, Women as the worſt that he moſt hated: Children as the iſſue of them both: the pillage of all ſhould be theirs, only the King of Armenia ſhould haue the Kingdome, and he would content him ſelfe with reuenge: this Oration ended, he furiouſly marched forward, and where hee came, left the Countrey deſolate: The King of Lidia hearing this, was driuen into a great agony, but diſſembling his griefe for feare of diſcouraging his Souldiers, he leuied a mighty army, and haſted forward to buckle with Aceſtes whom he met halfe at aduantage, as hauing moſt of his men at pillage: whereupon the Lidians taking opportunity ſet vpon the Armenians, but Aceſtes ſo rangde thoſe that he had, in ſuch warlike ſort: that he not only aboade the braue of his enemy, but entred his battaile, diſorderd his ranckes, and put them to the flight: many were ſlaine in that preſent place, ſuch as eſcapt and fled, were met by the Villages and harniers of the Armenians, and all put to the ſword, ſo that of forty thouſand Lidians there

ſcarſe remained thirty with the King, who paſſing vp into the Country: inſconſt him ſelfe within a ſtrong Caſtel with his Daughter Lidia, a few faint harted Souldiers, and all the treaſure hee could get: Aceſtes followed his Fortunes, and leauing Sertorius behind with the mayne battaile, toke with him ten thouſand Horſe, and fiue thouſand foote, and made after the King of *Lidia*, as faſt as his men were able to march: comming at laſt to the Caſtell weere he was inſconſt, firſt he intrencht a ſiege round about and legard it on euery ſide, then he damd vp all ſuch ſprings, wels, and Conduits, as ſerued the Caſtell with freſh water: this done, hee reſolued not to loſe a man at the aſſault, but to make them yæld by famine. The Princeſſe *Lidia* loking ouer the walls, ſæing how her mortall enemy had girt the Caſtell with Souldiers, Armenians men there thirſted after blood, and hated both her and her Father, ſhe fell from thoughts to paſſions, from paſſions to teares: inſomuch that ſhe ſat her downe, and wept bitterly: her Father comming vp the batilments, ſæing his daughter in ſuch perplered eſtate, finding want of victuals, and that of force he muſt be famiſhed: græfe ſtopping his ſpæch, he ſat him downe and bare her company in her paſſions: and after conſulted how to preuent enſuing miſery, many coniectures caſt: at laſt they reſolued to ſubmit themſelues to his mercy, whereupon *Lidia* decking her ſelfe in moſt gorgious attire, accompanied onely with two of her Ladies, paſſed out of the Caſtell gate, & went toward the Legar: the Sentonell no ſoner had them in hold, but they were honourably conueyed to the Pauilion of *Aceſtes*, who being certified that the Princeſſe Lidia was attended to ſpeake with him, leapt from his ſeate, and went to entertaine her, *Lidia* no ſoner ſaw him, but ſhe fell downe at his fæte: *Aceſtes* curteouſly toke her vp, and ſetting her in his ſeate, demaunded her what ſhē craued: *Lidia* all blubbered with teares, falling downe on her knæs, began thus.

Mighty

Mighty *Aceſtes*, if repentance were any ſatiſfaction for offences, or ſorrowe any ſalue to couer ingratitude, if teares might wipe away diſdaine, if a Virgines blood would pay raunſome for them which haue done amiſſe: I would preſent all theſe to pacifie the fury of thy conquering Sword: but I know ſuch deepe hate of my Fathers ingratitude, ſuch deſire to reuenge my rechleſſe diſdaine, and the diſgrace proffered by both: hath ſet a fire the hart of *Aceſtes*, as nothing may ſerue to quench ſuch an ouer heated flame: Oh yet might I finde ſo much fauour, that my death might redeeme the old man my Father, if not for the loſſe of Kingdome, yet of life: and from falling into the handes of his ancient enemy Sertorius, I ſhould account *Aceſtes* as mercifull as he is valiant: if my treaties may not preuaile, as it little behoueth *Aceſtes* any way to fauour Lidia, yet graunt me this, that I may dye vpon thine owne Sworde, that my blood vaniſhing on thy blade, thou mayſt be ſatiſfied, and I ſlaughtred: by the hand of *Aceſtes* ſo braue a Souldier, might dye contented.

No ſooner had ſhee vttered theſe words, but ſhee poured forth ſuch ſtreames of teares, as made the *Armenians* to take pitty of the diſtreſſed Princeſſe: *Aceſtes* taking her vp againe, called for his Sworde, and vnſheathing falling downe at her feete, began thus to make reply.

Such deepe impreſſion of griefe ſweete Goddeſſe, hath pierced the heart of *Aceſtes*, in that hee hath lifted his Sworde againſt that Lord that harboreth Lidia ſuch ſorrow, ſuch repentance, ſuch remorce, in that I haue done any thing that might offend the Princeſſe *Lidia*, whoſe deuine preſence hath raced out all intent to reuenge: and ſo captiuated againe her *Aceſtes*: that heere franckly he offreth his conquering Sworde, (that hath atchiued ſo many battailes) into the hand of his miſtreſſe to chaſtice eyther with death if ſhe pleaſe, that daring Knight that

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hath so deepely offended, and with that he sat as a man in a traunce: Lidia seeing she had brought the Beare to the stake, thought now so cunningly to muzzle, as she would keepe him hereafter for biting: following therefore her inchauntment, shee fell about his necke, and wette his cheekes with her teares in such sort, that at last from weeping they fell to kissing, yea so did Aceſtes comfort *Lidia*, that from melancholy she grew to be somewhat pleasant, the Knight possessed thus of his Lady (as hee thought) after he had banqueted her with such delicates as souldiers can afford, taking only her hand for pawne of his safety, he went with her to the Castell, where they were no sooner entred, but the King of *Lidia* with his Crowne in his hand met Aceſtes, and submitting him selfe, offered both his diadem and daughter as due to so victorious a champion, Aceſtes refused his dignities, but accepting of his Daughter, embraced her, and entred into priuate and familier parle: insomuch that choller past vppon both sides, they began to treate of the marriage, which was concluded: when the King of Armenia returned out of his Kingdome: wherupon without delay (so feruent was the loue of Aceſtes,) hee toke leaue of *Lidia* and her Father, and going downe to the Legar, rayſed the siege, to the great admiration of all his Souldiers, and from thence marched to the Campe where Sertorius lay: to whom Aceſtes reueled what had past, and craued that he would depart out of *Lidia* with sufficient coyne answerable for his costs: Sertorius with a frowning loke tolde him that in battaile he neuer plaid in iest, and what he had wonne with the blood of his Souldiers and danger of his owne person, he would not deliuer vp but by battaile: *Aceſtes* whose minde was to haughty to intreat, said nothing, but secretly stole from the Campe, and trauersing through *Lidia*, got vp of Horse and Footemen, the number of fiue and thirty thousand, with whome trusting to his Fortunes, hee marched closely and secretly to the Campe,

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of Sertorius, where he arriued about midnight, vsing now pollicy, that before had conquered with prowesse: so that killing the watch and Sentonell, hee past the Courte of garde, and set vpon the Souldiers, making a great slaughter of such men as were sleepie and amaz'd: yet Sertorius escaped, but Aceſtes pássed forward and followed him into Armenia, where his fortunes so serued him, that hee conquered Armenia, and brought the King himselfe captiue to Lidia: comming thus in tryumph to my Fathers court, seating him in greater pompe and possessions then euer he had, he began to vse his late familiarity towards me, but I as a woman changed in calling and condition, shooke him off with more disdaine then before: hee challenged my Fathers promise, who presently commaunded he should be apprehended and put in close prison: wee hauing thus caught the Lyon in ỹ snare, my Father questioned me how I would haue him vsed. I would not resolue on any lesse penaltie then death, my reason least in letting him abroad, he should fal to his fortunes: the maner of his martirdome I deuised to be famine, as hee intended to vs by his leager: my Father yeelding him absolutely into my hands: I prosecuted the matter, causing euery day for his greater torment, a course or two of daintie viands to be carried before the window that looked into his Chamber, and my selfe to agrauate his sorrowes, would passe often by his lodging in most pleasant humor. Aceſtes seeing himselfe thus ouertaken in his own follie, by trusting too much the teares of a woman, would not exclaime against the sexe, but seeing no way but death, no kinde but famine, he resolued to shew an honorable mind in great patience, & so remained there foure dayes, when, pinched with extreame hunger almost euen to death: as Lidia passed by, he fell into these passions.

Meate, meate, oh for want of meate I perrish: Ah hunger, hunger, the extreamest of all extremeties: were I amongst men, men would pittie me: amongst beastes,

beastes should feede me or feede vpon me. Amidst ỳ pikes would I venterously escape, or valiantly perrish: on the land, I could shift: in the Sea, I could swimme: no place so barren, no people so barberous that woulde not releeue me or soone ridde mee: euery where more help, no where lesse hope, ah hunger, hunger, the extreamest of all extremities. Thrice cruell Lidia, no worse I will tearme thee for that once I loued thee: not suffering mee to liue, nor simply to dye: my head is giddy, mine eyes dazell, fallen are my cheekes, and my tonge die my words, my sinewes shrinke, my blood consumeth, all my limmes fainte, and my hart failes me: euery minute I die, and I wish I dyd but die: to long am I out of the way, to bee well out of the way: Ah hunger, hunger, the extreamest of all extremities.

Ah Liuia, haue I deserued thus to bee doone vnto, I gaue thee Crownes, and thou wilt not giue mee a crum: I bestowed Kingdoms on thy Father, and hee presents me with famine: thus Loue wrought the traine, and fortune, nay mine owne folly performed the treason: yet this hope I haue, that he that hath found me, is hee that hath fashioned mee, who though he scourge mee, will yet saue me, how be it my God I cannot but cry, ah hunger, hunger, the extreamest of all extremeties.

What is it I would not rather be, then thus bee? then thus, ah then thus in pined walles to attende so bitter a death? I faint, alas I faint, my harts anguish commaundeth my tongues silence: then Acestes silently be patient, patiently be penitent, penitently perrish, and that last martirdome will be thy least miserie, because longer thou shalt not cry: ah hunger, hunger, the extreamest of all extremeties.

This complaint highly contented Lidia, so that shee departed and tolde it to her Father, reioycing that her deuised fourme of death sorted to so bitter euents: well another day past, so hungry grew Acestes, that he grædely fed

ly fed on the flesh on his armes, spilling that bloode with his own teeth, which before he had so prisde in many battailes: which when hee had done, readie to giue vp the ghoste, seeing the bare bones of his armes, he fell into this last complaint: Miserable wretch euen in the highest degree, miserably with my teeth haue I tyred on mine own flesh, till now bloodlesse and famished, my latest gaspe hardly giues passage to a few, and my farewell wordes, Lidia, ah Lidia, wherof is thy hard hart formed? that the sting of such diresse cannot peirce it, hast thou the eares of a woman to heare my cries, and not the hart of a woman to pitty my case? Ah Lidia, he that loued thee, for that hee loued thee must die: he that sounded thy praises in sundry Prouinces, him hast thou pinned and pined vp, till those armes are bare from flesh, that in many battailes bruted thy fame: I will not curse; thou art Lidia, nor exclaime at my last date thou wert my loue: nor pray for reuenge, sith at my death my patience shall giue my soule the better passage. But fondly, how short a time haue I to speak and yet how folishly I speake, to name my earthly Goddesse when I shoulde pray to my heauenly God: the one hath consumed me, the other must saue mee: now comes the touch, my hart yeeldes to him that framed it, now the last bitter sweete pang of death endes what the malice of man hath inflicted, and so falling downe, he died.

As soone as I perceiued hee was dead, not yet content with reuenge, I caused his body to be hang'd in chaynes, that the world might see the trophee of my crueltie: The manner of his death beeing knowne, the Nobles and specially the Commans began to murmure that so braue a warriour who had made foure Kingdoms tributories to Lidia, shoulde so ingratefully perrish through ỹ malicious disdaine of a woman, yea, so farre it pierced into the hart of Seldon great Duke of our realme, that suddainly causing a mutiny, he summond most of the Nobles, & told the such a tirant was too heauy for them to beare, to be short,

the Nobles agréd, the Commons of their free will came in flocks to reuenge, so that he had quickly leuied an Armie of an hundred thousand men, and entred into the Castle, tooke mée and my Father prisoners, whom hee commaunded to be famished in the same place where Acestes ended his life, there without remorse we dyed, they tooke downe the body of Acestes, and buried him with princelie funerals, and ouer his tomb, for that he attempted the reuenge: they crowned Solydor King of Lidia.

AS soone as she had ended her tale, she fell to her wonted cryes and shrikes, not answering to any question, so that I left the place and returnd backe with my Harp: Orpheus hauing thus discoursed, Iupiter asked Venus how she liked of the tale: marry quoth shée, as of one that Orpheus tells, comming out of Hell: nothing preiudicial to my Dictie, sith shee was enemy to loue, and of so austere chastitie: it rather toucheth Iuno or Diana, the one stately in her lookes, the other too chary in her thoughts: for my part so I dislike of her disdainfull crueltie, as if I might haue censured, if possible it might haue bene, shee shoulde haue had a more bitter death vppon earth, and a more pinching paine in hell: Truth quoth Mercurie, for perhaps the paine is not so great to remaine in the fogge, as the remembrance how faire once shee was, and nowe to haue all smeared with the smoake: I think when Venus was a maid, she was more charie of her face then her maidenhead: and more warie of her beauty then her honestie. These quippes quoth Mars are digressions, but leaue Venus and talke of Lidia, whose life was so strickt, whose hart so opposde to loue, whose thoughtes so full of pride and disdaine, as her instance serueth rather to bée produced for a wonder, then for example to condemne women, sith the world I thinke containes not one so bad: Apollo smiling said, Well taken Mars for you owne aduantage, women must be pleasde, and Venus will frowne

if

if she be not flattered: Vulcan sits fast a sleepe, or else I would not haue spoake so broad before, but to drink down all the frumps. Ganimede (quoth he) fill in Nectar, so the Gods from disputing fel to carowsing, and then Arion tuning his instrument, began to warble out this Ditty.

The Song of Arion.

SEated vpon the crooked Dolphins back,
Scudding amidst the purple coloured waues:
Gazing aloofe for Land, Neptune in black,
attended with the Tritons as his slaues.
Threw forth such stormes as made the ayre thick:
For greefe his Lady Thetis was so sick.

Such plaints he throbd as made the Dolphin stay,
women (quoth he) are harbours of mans health:
Pleasures for night, and comforts for the day,
what are faire women but rich natures wealth.
Thetis is such, and more if more may be:
Thetis is sick, then what may comfort me.

Women are sweets that salue mens sowrest ills,
women are Saints, their vertues are so rare:
Obedient soules that seeke to please mens wills,
such loue with faith, such Iewels women are.
Thetis is such, and more if more may be:
Thetis is sick, then what may comfort me.

With that he diu'd into the Corall waues,
To see his loue, with all his watry slaues.
The Dolphin swam, yet this I learned then:
Faire women are rich Iewells vnto men.

ARion hauing ended his Ditty, Apollo sayde, this falls out fitte, for Orpheus hauing made the diuision of a womans nature to be either too cruel, or too curteous:

Arion ſtandeth in his ſong as well to defend, as he to oppoſe: accounting women the wealth of nature, and farre more profitable then Orpheus ſaies they are preiudiciall, therfore if it pleaſe the reſt of the Gods, we'le heare what Arion cenſures of that ſexe, they gladly agreed, and Apollo commaunded him to ſhewe his opinion, whereupon Arion began thus.

No ſoner right mighty Gods, had nature in her curious moulde formed the counterfeite of Beauty, but looking vpon her workmanſhip, ſhee fell in loue with that metaphyſicall excellency, as Pigmalion did with the perfection of his owne Art: which may aſſure vs, that it is moſt exquiſite, wherein curious nature taketh ſuch extreame delight: this glorious Idea drawne out from the ſecret temper of the graces nature, beſtowed more prodigally vpon women then men, as creatures more worthy and excellent: the richeſt gold hath the rareſt colour, the pureſt ſtones are moſt cleare, the ſweeteſt Flowers moſt pleaſing to the eye: and women as the pureſt quintiſſence circolated from all other liuing things, are therefore the moſt beautifull and faire: yea in their own ſex, beauty is the touchſtone of vertue, and ẏ fairer a woman is, the fuller of good conditions: for ſuch as nature hath either ſlipt ouer with negligence, or made in her melancholy, ſo that they are ill fauoured and deformed eyther in face or body: ſuch I holde as a principle to be counted ſtigmaticall, as noted by nature to be of a bad conſtitution: then muſt we confeſſe that beauty is excellent, as the pride of nature: deuine, as fetcht from the Gods: glorious, as the delight of the eye: pleaſing, as the content of the hart: and to be eſteemed aboue all things, as the very couer and ſuperficies vnder which vertue lyes hid: if then men ſeeing ſuch heauenly obiects, ſuch ſweet Saints, haue their eyes fired, their minds fettered, their thoughts inchanted with their loues, are they to be blamed or not? rather to be thought of Heroicall conceite: that place their liking on the foun-

dation

dation of beauty, and to be counted men of great iudgement, that in their desires seeke to conuite themselues to such an excellency: for may not he which enioyeth a beautifull Lady, boast that he possesseth at command? by spending a few yeeres in woing, some part of his liuing in expences, his dayes quiet in sighs, his nights slèep in teares, by these toyes and a few other passions, he possesseth himselfe of that creature which the graces and nature had studied many ages to make excellent: yet there be some such satiricall copes-mates, that spare not to raile against them, calling them the imperfection of nature, saying beauty is vanity, and the signe of little honesty, noting women as waspish, froward, deceitful, toyish, light, sullen, proud, inconstant, discurteous, cruell, and what not: such as can afford them no better speeches, I would haue either made Euenuches or Esseni or plaine Asses, neuer to be fauoured of women, but to be accounted as stoicall companions, vnfit to attend on such beautifull and vertuous creatures: for in my opinion sweete and simple soules: they be pleasant, open harted, far from deceit God wote, as bearing all their owne secrets both graue, and yet hauing many mad and merry tricks to pleasure men, humble & lowly, submitting themselues to what their friends will lay vpon them: constant, as neuer to be turnd from their opinions: kind enough, and to be short, as full of excellent qualities, as the precious stone Silex is full of secret vertue, and this right mighty Gods is my opinion of women: The Gods smiled at this censure of Arion, and wished him if he could to proue it with an instance as Orpheus did the contrary: *Arion* laying by his instrument, and the Gods being silent, he told his tale to this effect.

Arions Tale.

AFter that Right mighty Gods, the Pirats had heaued me ouer bord, & that being receiued vpon a Dolphins back, I was safely transported to *Loyath*, the King glad

glad of my arriuall, as honoring me for that I was counted the most perfect musition in Thece, and musing at the strangenes of my fortunes: to make his peres and princes of his land, partakers not only of my melody, but of the wonder: he proclaimed a generall feast, not of volentary but vpon commaund, that all Dukes, Earles, Barrons, Knights, and other Gentlemen, should with their wiues and children, for the more magnificence be present: which strickt Edict, was so straightly obeyed of all, that at the day appoynted, none failed to be present: there appeard in the Kings Pallace such troups of Lords and Ladies, as might with their glorious brauery ouercharge the eye with pleasure. To these the King presented me clad in my rich robe, with mine instrument euen as I sate on the Dolphins back, with the whole discourse of my fortunes: wherat they were all driuen into a wandring admiration, after long gazing on me, as at a man reserued to some higher or more hatefull destiny, they sate downe in the great Hall to dinner: beeing placed by the King him selfe and his Sonne, who then playde the Marshall of the Hall: the yong Prince, whose name was Philomenes, giuing greatest attendance where hee sawe the fairest Ladies: as hauing his eye drawn rather with beauty then chiualry, at last he espied a lampe that lightned all the rest, or rather disgraced them: as Phebe doth the little fired Starres: for so farre she surpast the other Ladies in excellency, as she did in dignity: and by birth she was daughter to Pelopidas the Duke, and great commaunder in Corinth, this Lady whose name was Argentina was so faire: as touching the faultles mixture of vermillion flouriſht vpon Iuory, & so full of fauor for the perfect proportion of the linaments, whereupon this natiue colour was ouer-dasht, that nature had made beauty absolute, and beauty made Argentina the most excellent: Philomenes seeing so heauenly a Nimph, stode staring on her face, as at a wonder, gazing so long, that Venus seeing

Ceres

Ceres and Bacchus honored all the reſt, thought to arreſt the yong Prince for her attendant, ſo that leuelling Cupids arrow aright, and wiſhing the boy to draw home, ſhe pierſt Philomenes ſo deepe, that hee ſhrunk & ſtart at the ſuddaine prick which this inuenomed arrow had tainted him with: feeding thus his eye, his fancy & his thoughtes with contemplation, hee loſt his ſtomacke to gorge with the Camelion on the ayre: ſure was that meſſe where Argentina ſat, to haue what attendance the Prince could grace them with: but their ſeruice was ſo broken and ſo ill ſewed, that either they muſt coniecture the Prince to bee no cunning ſeruitor, or els that his hart was on his halfe-penny: well, dinner beeing done and the tables taken vp, Arion fell to his muſick, and the chæfe Ladies to the meaſures, Philomenes ringleader of the rout, ſingled out the Lady Argentina, who bluſhing to ſée the young Prince make choiſe of her aboue the reſt, gaue ſuch a glorie to her face, that Philomenes all on fire at the ſight, had almoſt forgotte the time of the meaſure: but calling his wits together, he led formoſt till the muſick ceaſt, & then wringing her by the hand, he whiſperd to her thus. I ſee Madam that all theſe Lords and Ladies preſent, frolicke themſelues as fitting the time, and feeding my Fathers delightful humor: my ſilly ſelfe onely excepted, who thys day giuing mine eyes leaue to banquet on your beautie, commanded my ſtomacke to faſt and pray, that my heart which had ſurfetted on the excellencie of loue, might finde a curteous Phiſition: now ſweéte ſaint it reſteth in your fauour, whether I ſhall triumph as the moſt happieſt, or ſorrow as the moſt miſerable. The muſick called on to an other meaſure, ſo that Philomenes was interrupted, & forced to tread his taſke, but as ſoone as the muſicke gaue breathing time, Argentina beginning her exordium with a bluſh, made Philomenes this aunſwer.

It ſæmeth ſir, that tis a merry time, your honor is ſo well diſpoſed to bee pleaſant, ſingling out a cunning muſition.

the simplest plaine song, that your descant might seeme the more refind. It behoueth such as my self to brook ỳ frumps of a Prince, & to take them for fauours, for Kings words may not offend, if in wrath, much lesse in iest: might your handmaide dare to reply, in my opinion howsoeuer your eyes haue banquetted, your sight is neuer the worse, nor they the more satisfied: for your harts surfeite I will bee headwoman, with your stomack not in fasting, but pray that your Phisition may proue such as would fit your desires: but my Lorde to your last clause, it is vnlikely your mirth dependeth of my fauour, whose fauour cannot profit nor disfauour preiudice, but taking it in iest as your honor profferd it, I pray you for my part my Lord to be as merry as you please. The instruments sounded, and forward must Philomenes, who wisht Arions strings might crack, that his melody ended, he might proceed in his prattle. As sone as the musick stopt againe, the Prince began thus.

Beleeue me Lady, if you take my talk for a iest, you haue a deeper insight in my thoughts then my self: for by your diuine beauty, (the oath that for the whole world I would not infringe) so deeply in earnest did I breake into my first passion, that my hart feeleth far more then my tongue vttered, so strongly and strangly hath loue on a suddain vi et armis as they say made entrance, there where fancie before could haue no passage, so that rightly hast thou sayde Argentina, that though mine eyes & hart surfeited, yet they are not satisfied: as vowing themselues euer deuoted to so excellent a choyse: which if they may possesse as it lyes in your power, nature by no meanes may minister thē greater content: As Philomenes was ready to wade further in his discourse, the daunce, I know not vpon what occasion, brake of, and the old man calling his sonne, tolde the noble men they should heare one of Arions schollers, wherupon he commaunded his sonne to take the instrument in hys hand, who very nie as skilfull as his Maister, obeyed his Fathers charge, and glad that time had giuen him oppor-

tunitie

tunitie to shew his cunning before this Goddesse, hee began to play, and sung a sonnet to this effect.

CVpid abroade was lated in the night,
his winges were wet with ranging in the raine,
Harbour he sought, to mee hee tooke his flight,
to dry his plumes I heard the boy complaine.
I opte the doore, and graunted his desire,
I rose my selfe, and made the wagge a fire.

Looking more narrow by the fiers flame,
I spied his quiuer hanging by his backe:
Doubting the boy might my misfortune frame,
I would haue gone for feare of further wrack.
But what I drad, did me poore wretch betide:
For forth he drew an arrow from his side.

He pierst the quick, and I began to start,
a pleasing wound but that it was too hie,
His shaft procurde a sharpe, yet sugred smart,
away he flewe, for why his winges were dry.
But left the arrow sticking in my brest:
That sore I greeude I welcomd such a guest.

PHilomenes hauing ended his song, they all generallie commended the skil of the yong Prince, but especially Argentina, who hearing him sing both sweetly and passionately, was charmed as if she had heard the Sirens, that while all the other walked abroad, shee fained herselfe not well, and withdrew solitary into her Chamber, where alone, she began to ruminate in her memory all the perfections of Philomenes, as well the sweenes of his face, ỹ proportion of his body, as the vertues & qualities of the mind: his courage, his comlines, his dignities, but there she stopt & gaue a sigh, as being a prince to high for her to gaze at, meditating thus: shee so swallowed vp the potions ỹ Ve-

nus had tempʒed with her ſoʒcery, as dʒunk with his beu-tie, ſhe began to fall with herſelfe into this parle.

Unhappy Argentina, whoſe youth vertue hath bʒideled with chaſt thoughtes, whoſe yæres beauty inchaunteth with fond lookes, reſembling the nettle, which may bee handled in the bud, but ſtingeth in the flower: do thy ver-tues increaſe like the pace of a Crab, backwarde? haſt thou in thy cradle been continent, and wilt thou in thy ſa-dle be impudent? art thou come to this feaſt to buy follie? knowſt thou not that Venus ſtands by the wine-pʒeſſe of Bacchus, and bʒeathes her venom vppon his liquoʒ? ſatſt thou downe pleaſant? muſt thou riſe paſſionate? I and in loue Argentina? and why not in loue? was I not fra-med foʒ loue? are not Womens harts the Exchequour where fancie yeelds vp his accounts: yes Argentina, and feare not to loue, foʒ if thy choyce be right made, there can nothing come foʒ marriage but honour: but with whom art thou in loue? with Philomenes the Kings Sonne and heire apparent to the Diadem of Corinth, a ſteppe higher Argentina then it becommeth thee to tread a degrée farre aboue thy foʒtunes, a ſtar to high foʒ thée to gaze at. Kings as they are men befoʒe the gods, ſo are they gods beſoʒe men: ſuch high perſonages as wee muſt honoʒ with our lookes, not attempt with our loues: Why but Argentina he loues thee, he is inamoʒed of thy beauty, hee ſues with woʒdes, and intreates with his eyes: What then: can-not ſuch great Pʒinces be ſooner penſick then paſſionate: weare fauour in their mouthes, when they haue flatteris in theyʒ harts: Doth not loue hang in their eyelyddes, which as it is taken in with euery looke, ſo tis ſhaken off with euery winke: is not their fancies like the Homers dew, which ſcarce wetteth the graſſe beſoʒe it bee dʒyed vp with the Sunne? take heed Aagentina, Pʒinces haue liberties and pʒiuiledges, they can laugh out faultes, which wee muſt pay with pennalties: Wee hold Venus foʒ a Goddeſſe, they neuer offer her incenſe noʒ ſacrifice:

and

and yet they no soner craue, but she is ready to graunt: yea but hath swoorne ah fond fole, Periuria ridet Amantum Iupiter: Louers oaths are like fetters made of glasse that glister faire, but couple in restraint: if swearing had made loue perfect, Carthage had possest Eneas for their King: Phillis had not hangd her selfe, nor Medea said Deteriora sequor, yet men must be credited, els shall loue be a shadow: talkt of, but not put in execution: all are not Sons to Anchisis, nor brothers to Iason, nor traitors like Demophon: Philomenes face bewraies his faith, & me thinkes his lookes containe loyalty: Thus poore wench do I perswade my selfe to the best, whereas perhaps he meanes but to sport with me to make triall of my wit, well if it be so, I wil endeuor to loue him lesse thē I do, but if he mean truth, I will labour to loue him more then I haue done: and with this she rested content, & went abroad to find out the rest of the Ladies. Argentina had not serued her selfe thus in secret, but Philomenes was as solitary: for getting himselfe vp into his Study, then setting down his head on his hand, & his elbow on his book, he began thus to debate with himselfe. Philomenes thou hast read much & reapt litle, that at one look hast learnd more, thē in seauen yeres study thou couldst discouer: Hermes told thee that beauty was a star, whose influence had sundry effects, this was Allegorical, & thou didst only passe it ouer for a principle. Auicen said that loue was a fury, how didst thou esteeme of this but as an axiome: Epictetus called Venus the restlesse planet, thou tookest this for a dart: & Amphibological Aphorisme comments thou hadst none, and conceiue thou couldst not: but now if Hermes, Auicen, or Epictetus want interpreters, let amorous Schollers be auditours to my precepts: for I haue found beauty a star, and haue gazd against it: Loue is a fury for it is full of passions, & Venus a restlesse starre, for since the Goddesse distilled into my thoughts her precious Balms, the opperation hath bēn so mighty, as my greatest rest hath bēne restlesse disquiet,

what nēd these ambigues, this schollerisme, this folery, thou art in loue with Argentina, the cōmanders daughter of Corinth, a Duke, but thy Subiect: why then dost thou vse preambles & protestations? canst thou not say flatly I am in loue, Venus Cofers when they haue the greatest sound, are alwaies most empty: & louers when they prattle most, are thought either great talkers, or deepe flatterers: then Philomenes discouer thy mind, Argentina is a woman, & therfore to be woed, & so to be won: Kings may command, where poore men cannot intreat: tis better to name a crowne then to write a Letter: an ounce of giue me, is worth a pound of heare me: the name of Queen is a great argument, & therfore feare not: thou hast as much to be liked, as she to be loued. Thus far wel Philomenes, but suppose she hath already setled her affection, & hath made choise of some other: seeke not to diuert her, for she that is faithles to one, will be constant to none, if thou loue her, wish her not to be disloyall, but rather paune thy life, then disparage her honor, & wrastle with Loue, whom if thou subdue: thou extēmst a glorious conquest. In this resolution he flung out of his chamber, and passing into the priuy Garden, there he found all the Ladies sparfeled abroad in sundry borders, som gathering flowers, others in discourses of the excellency of the place, some in prattle with the birds, all busie, none idle: taking thus a superficial view of them all, as hauing his eye wandring for a fairer obiect: he passed forward to finde out if it might be the Lody Argentina, whom he spied with her mother in a shady walke of the Garden: seeing non but thē two, thither went Philomenes & saluted them in this maner: Honorable Dutches, well accompanied with your faire daughter, the Mother happy for bearing so sweete a creature, & Argentina fortunatē in cōming from such a parent: your walking in this shady Arbour resembles Latona, tripping with her train, Diana in the Lamns, where hauing her self tried the forwardnes of Esculapius her husband: she schold her daugh-

ter,

ter,so that Diana vowed perpetual chastity: I hope Lady that ỹ Duke Pelopidus,brooks not company with Esculaus,& therfore you nede not nusle vp your daughter in such heresie: The Dutches hearing the yong Prince so plesant being her selfe a Lady of merry disposition,made him this answer. Lord Pilomenes,were I Latona indeed & as waspish in minde,as ready as she to reuenge: I would cause Phebus to chastice your frumps as he did the sons of Mobæ,in loding my back with such reuerence,& my daughter with such beauty, to your strange supposition, as far as Pelopides differs from Esculapius: so far was mine from Latonas perswasion,so beleeue me sir, if Roses be not gathered in the bud, they either wither or proue windfalls: Maids must be married, least they be marred: if they be coy & sweare chastity, they oft wish and wil with secrecy, youth is the subiect of loue,& Siens that are grafted yong, haue the surest ioynts,therefore so far am I from that austere peruersnes of some mothers,that as yong as Argentine is,if there were a man whom she could loue & we like of,they should neuer break off for yeres. Philomenes hearing how the Dutches dessembled not, began thus to reply: & what manner of man should he be that might both content you & please your daughter? the one measuring by age,the other be youth: I would haue him,quoth the Dutches,to be of age answerable to my daughters yeres,and his parētage proportioned to his parentage, least inequality of time or birth might bred mischefe, his personage such as might fed her eye,his vertues such as might plese vs both, his liuing answearable to all these,& him would I count a fit husband for Argentina . A right conclusion quoth Philomenes,for there is no match ỹ is right made if peise conclude not the premises: if he had ỹ age of Adon, the honors of Hercules,ỹ proportiō of Theseus,the vertues of ỹ boy,yet si nil attuleris ibis Homere foras, if he haue not liuing,al his loue is laid in ỹ dust: but what say you Argētina,in faith let me as your gostly father,haue you at shrift

before.

before your mother, tel me were you neuer in loue: Argentina blusht & was silent, as one that durst not be bold before her mother: whereupon Philomenes said, see Madam, tis your presence makes your daughter so squemish, I pray you prattle with some other of the Ladies, & giue vs leaue a litle to be secret here in this walk, perhaps I wil be a suter to your daughter, what say you Madam, shal I haue your good wil? I, & my good word my Lord quoth she, if you meant earnestly: & with that smiling she went her way & left them to thẽselues: Philomenes seeing himselfe thus alone with his Goddesse, thought to take hold of her mothers last words & frõ thẽce to driue his insinuation thus.

You heare sweet Saint how fauourably your Mother speakes, now Madam what censure shall I haue at your hands? I cãnot paint out many passions, nor tel tales with such large periods as many vse to do, but I wil court thee and wo thee in one word, & that is Argentina I loue thee, more I cannot promise, and so much I will performe by the faith of a Prince: Argentina seeing Philomenes speak so plainly, & therfore as she thought so faithfully made this answer: my Lord, you take the antecedent of my mothers answer for a fauor, but you leaue out the consequent: and that is if you meane in earnest, for I cannot thinke youe grace would look so low as vpõ Argentina, but rather gaze at some glorious princesse, whose Maiesty might match Iuno, whose worthines Pallas, whose beauty venus, & with these might bring for her dowry a Diadem: but? & with that Argentina staid & blusht: which Philomenes espied, & therfore wringing her by the hand said: but, what Madam, nay forward with the rest or you proffer me great wrong: why then my Lord, quoth she, and with that shee gald him with a glance: but if your honor would vouchsafe to fauor such a simple maid, as from a meane Lady to make her a Quéene: for other thẽ mariage I dare sweare your Lordship doth not intend: your Father gracing our loues with his kingly consent, though I could not with

loue

loue ſufficient requeſt loue: as in perſon & parentage vnfit for your highnes, yet would I with obedience and humility make ſupply of theſe defects which otherwiſe were wanting. This anſwer of Argentina ſo contented Philomenes, as that hee ſtode as a man in a trance, at laſt hee toke her hand in his, and ſwore, that before the feaſt were ended he wold make her princeſſe of Corinth, let this ſuffiſe Argentina, qd. he, & with that he ſealed vp the bargain with a kiſſe, and walked towardes her Mother, to whom he deliuered Argentina thus: Madam here I deliuer your daughter as ſafe as I receiued in outwarde appearance, but how I haue ſchold her, time will make trial, perhaps we haue ſtroke the match, and therfore let the Lorde Pelopidus prouide a gwd dowrie, and with that he went his way: when the matter comes to that effect my Lord, you ſhall haue a dukedome with her: at that the Prince turnd back and ſaid, thats mine already, and her Father is like to bee my ſubiect, and ſo to holde his liuing in cheefe: the Dutcheſſe ſmilde, & thus thy parted. But leauing Philomenes to the King his Father, who hauing noted as narrowly as his ſonne, the beauty of Argentina, had great lyking of the Lady, ſo that he made inquirie of thoſe which were Pelopidus neereſt neighbours, what diſpoſition the virgin was of, they all affirmed to the King that ſhee was ſo vertuous, humble, curteous, and adorned with ſuch excellent qualities, as the fourme of her life was a methode wherby other Gentlewomen did direct their actions. The King hearing this, reſolued in his minde there cculde not be a fitter match for his Sonne, wherupon determining to break with the yong Prince, as he was in this humor, hee met Philomenes whom he toke aſide, and began to queſtion him as concerning Argentina, whether hee could fancy the Lady or no. Philomenes afraide the King had eſpyed their loues, made anſwer, that he neuer toke ſuch narrow view of her that he could yeld his iudgement with affection: then dw qd. the King, and giue me within two daies an anſwer, and ſo he departed. Philomenes ioyfull of this,

no soner met Argentina, but he told what motion his Father had made, but to make a smal harvest of a little crop: Philomenes at the two daies end so answered his Father, that the King breaking with the Duke, it was concluded that the end of the feast should be the beginning of ỹ marriage, which was such a ioy to the nobles to sæ their yong Prince allied in his owne Land, that they deuised newe Iustes and pastimes, continuing the feast many dayes to their great ioy, and the Louers most happy content: The mariage and the feast thus finished, the Nobles departed, Pelopidus leauing his daughter thus honorably espoused, took his leaue, the maried couple staying still with the old King in his Court, who being of great age, liued not long after, but paide his debt vnto nature, so that Philomenes was crowned King of Corinth: Liuing thus happily with his wife Argentina, thinking his degræ too high for Fortune to preiudice, it so fell out, that Marcion the King of Sycilia, hearing that his ancient enemy Philomenes father was dead, thought to try what mettall was in the sonne, to proue if he were as valiant and fortunate as his father, therfore he leauied a great Army & prouided a great fleete to saile to Corinth, which was no soner rigged but he imbarqued his men, and as sone as wind & weather would permit, sailed towards Corinth, where arriuing in a Desert place, as politick to land without any great resistãce: he vnshipt his men, and all his furniture for war: and letting his Naue ride in the road, hee marched forward into the maine land, vsing as one ỹ intended a conquest, fire & sword. Philomenes hearing by Postes how Marcion was landed with a mighty Hoast, and had spoiled many of his prouinces, started vp, & summoning his Lords about him, raised a mighty hoast, such as neuer King of Corinth dyd before him, and with thẽ marched to meet with Marcion, whom he incountred by the Riuer ỹ runneth by the great plaines called the Corinth downes: then pitching his pauilion, he intrenched his Army, and so had Marcion fortified his: lying thus a while, at last by Heralts they resol-

ued

ned vpon a day of battaile, which once come & both the Armies rangd: they ioynd battaile so furiously, the one to cõquer, the other to defend: Philomenes hart made one with equitie, the other with dispaire, that a long while ẏ fight was doubtfull, till at last fortune allotted the best to Marcion, in such sort that the fielde was his, the Corinthians most slaine, some fledde, the King valiantly fighting, taken prisoner: Marcion triumphing in the victory, marched forwardes to the Citty leading *Philomenes* as his Captiue: comming to the gates, ẏ Cittizens yeelded vp the keyes, & he as a valiant conquerour entred, & passing into the pallace, found there the Quæne all blubbred with teares, as a woman almost senceleſſe, whom he comforted and committed to ẏ custodie of one of his Duke: seated thus victoriously in Corinth, he not onely disgraded the King from all dignitie, but disrobing him, commanded that he should be turnd out of the pallace, and that he should not be releæued vpon paine of death, but if he would haue any thing to satisfie his thirst, he should gette it with his handythrift: *Philomenes* not abashed at this dome, intreated the King to be good to his wife, and so went and became a labourer for day wages, contented with this fortune: Marcion the next day sent for the Queene, who although forlorne with teares, yet noting her narrowly, hee found her the fayrest creature that euer yet in his life he had viewed, so that hæ fell extreamly in loue with her, and offered her what lyberty or pleasure shee would haue, courting her with many faire promises and amorous conceits, but all in vaine, for shee was resolued whatsoeuer fell, life or death, ẏ none to her but her loue *Philomenes*: Marcion captiuated in her beauty, was restleſſe, fæling such strange & vncouth passions, that at last he fell into these termes.

What fond motions Marcion are these that disturbe thy mind? what childish thoughts vnfit for a king, a souldier, nay for one that hath conquered both a Crowne and kingdom: thou camst from Sycilia to be victor, & hære thou art arriued & not vanquished, thou hast beaten *Philomenes* in

battaile, & art brought vnder by his wife in loue, thy reſolution was to terrifie thy foes with thy ſword, ſo thou haſt don, but faine to pleaſe a woman with thy tongue: by this fond folery I may note, ỳ Venus frowne is of more force then the weapons of Mars, that affections are harder to be ſuppreſt then enemies to ſubdue: that loue is aboue King and Keiſer, where Cupid commaunds, there dignity hath no priuiledge to withſtand: then Marcion yelde, ſue and intreat, but whom, the wife of Philomenes thy captiue, rather commaund her, and what ſhee will not yeelde by intreaty, take by conſtraint: in ſo doing ſhould I reape infamy, and forced loue is neuer ſweete: no Marcion allure her with wealth, promiſe ſhe ſhal be thy paramore, to ſeat her next thy ſelfe in thy kingdome, women are won with fauors, and there is none ſo chaſt but time and gifts may intice. In this reſolution he ſent for Argentina, & beganne thus to deliuer his minde vnto her. Thou ſeeſt Argentina, how I haue fauoured thee, not like a Princeſſe that were captiue, but euen as a Queene that is ſole miſtres and ſoueraigne of my affections, thy beauty hath cõquered that hart which had made conqueſt of thy Country, & ſubdued him who before, womans feature neuer vanquiſhed: then Argentina take pitty of him that for thy loue is ſo paſſionate, conſent that I may enioy thee as my paramour, and thou ſhalt be honoured as ſhee that is beſt loued of the King of Sycilia, I could Argentina ỳ ſeeſt obtaine by force what I ſue for by intreatie: but I couet rather to poſſeſſe my ſelfe of thy louely conſent, then by conſtraint: yeeld therefore what I requeſt, and heere before the Lords of Sycilia, I promiſe to grant whatſoeuer thou ſhall commaund, ſo it touch not my Crowne nor thy Huſbande, though to the danger of my perſon, freely without exception: Argentina as one nothing diſmaid, returnd him this anſwere: I not deny Marcion thou haſt ſubdued Corinth, and depoſed the King, which I attribute rather to his bad fortunes, then thy prowesſe or chiualrie, but in all thy conqueſt thou ſhalt neuer boaſt thou haſt conquered either Philomenes or hys

wife

wife Argentina, seeing we are only ouercom, not vanquished: in that both of vs remaine contented, and keepe our minds vntoucht: thou art inchaunted with my loue, no Marcion, but perhaps thou art fed with lust, & neuer hope that Argentina will minister any meanes to appease the flame: although thou shouldst inforce her to consent by the most extreame torments: Philomenes liues, & so long wil I loue: not thee, but him whom I vowed to be true vnto for euer: yet thy last condition hath somwhat perswaded me, that if thou graunt what I request, I will consent not only to be thy paramour but thine for euer: the king was so glad of this, that he iterated with an oath to performe her demauud: then this it is quoth Argentina: To morrow morning thou shalt shut thy selfe into a secret place, wherof my selfe wil keepe the key, & there for three dayes thou shalt fast, without tasting any thing to aslake hunger or thirst: this time thou shalt pray to the Gods for the remission of our sinns which we shal offend in by breach of matrimony, then at the terme of three days thou shalt freely take the vse of my body before thou eat any meat, otherwise if thou faile but as much as Proserpina to taste a graine of the pomgranet, thou shalt neuer after question me of loue: thus do, and I grant to like thee, or els here is my head, let that pay my raunsom: Marcion was so setted in her beauty, that he thought it nothing to vndertake this taske, and therfore promised before his Lords to fast three daies, and then to lye with her before he eat any meat, or els neuer to motion her any more of loue: whereupon the next day the Princesse shut him vp till the date was expired, in which three dayes he felt such torments, such pinching hunger and extreme thirst, that he cursed loue, and exclaimed against beauty as a charme ỹ made men senceles, willing to giue for one crum the Diadem of Corinth, well the terme expired, all the Nobles were assembled & sat in the great hall, expecting what euent shold fall either of ỹ kings fast, or of Argentinas request: at last Argentina sent the key to one of the Lords, that the king might come

into the Hall whether she presently would repaire: the Lord went to the chamber doore and no sooner put the key to the lock, but Marcion started vp and cryed for meat, the Lord vnlockt and saw the king glance at him with such a fierce loke, that he was afraid and started back: villaine quoth Marcion, hast thou brought me any meat, and with that running as a mad man into the hall, flinging in fury among the Lords: Why Gentiles (quoth he) sit you here without meat? why are not the tables spread? do I allow such niggardly allowance, or wil you famish him that fostereth you all? At this he was in a rage, Argentina apparailed in her richest robes, came pacing, that she loked more like an Angell, then a mortall creature, insomuch that euery eye directed their glaunces at so heauenly an obiect, except Marcion, who at her sight sat as a man greatly amated: hauing her mayde followe her with a dish of meat crumd: Argentina with a smiling countenance taking him by the hand, sayd thus.

Redoubted Conquerour, according to promise I am come in the presences of these Lords to offer my self subiect to your highnes plesure, ready to goe whither your grace shal conduct me: Marcion at this cried out, & thinkst thou Argentina that famisht men haue minde on beauty, or is hunger to be satisfied with loue? no, no, tis true Marcion, Sine Cerere & baco friget Venus, reason could not subdue lust, but fasting hath set it on a non plus: but what is that the mayde carries? meat my Lord quoth she for your honour after, and with that she blusht: Marcion no sooner heard her name meate, but he leapt to the mayde, puld away the dish, saying: farwel fond loue, and welcome that wherof one morsel is worth a monarchy, Argentina giue me leaue to eate, for thou hast conquered Marcion in his own folly, and with that he fell to his meat, wherwith after he had somewhat appeased his hunger, sitting him in his seat royal, he began to parle with his Lords of Argentinas pollicy, highly extolling the constancy of so true a wife, and so far entred into consideration of the chaunce of

fortune,

fortune, and fall of Princes, that rising from his throne, he went and embraced and kist Argentina, not only praising her for her redy invention to perswade him from his vanity, but for her sake sent for her husband, and yelded him his Crowne and his Kingdome, and living his sworn friend, returned home into Sycilia.

NO sooner had *Arion* ended his tale, but Mars taking opportunity, said: we see by this event, that as women haue their vanities whereby to be checked, so they haue their vertues redounding greatly to their praise: beeing both affable and constant, although that single instance of Orpheus his Lidia did inferre the contrary: And so quoth Apollo would Venus serue for an instance if you mean of constancy, for no doubt if you may be iudge, al beauty shal be vertue, & all women shal be Saints: & now quoth Iupiter, *Apollo* by your leaue to take Mars his part, we oft rightly to think of women, seeing so oft we seeke their fauors, & speak to them by intreaties for their loues, otherwise we should proue our selues very ingrate: to beat thē with rods, that feast vs with banquets, to proffer them Scorpions that giues vs no worse then their own selues: Liuely spokē quoth Mercury, but Iuno likes you neuer the better for this flattery, as supposing you haue sued to more then contented her, or becommed you: but in my opinion, Arions tale paints out a paragon, a matchles mirrour, as wel for constancy, as the other for cruelty: these extremes therfore infer no certain cōclusions, for they leaue a mean betwæne both, wherein I think the nature of women do consist, neither so cruel but they wil grant, nor so constant but they will yeld, & rather oft-times proue too curteous then too vnkind: See quoth Mars how peeuishly you conclude, to taunt them still of vnconstancy: well Mercury, quoth he, thou art subtill, & canst by thy fallacions prooue what thou wilt: but yet this I set down for mine own opinion, that women the more beautiful they are, the more curteous, the more constant, & fuller of excelent qualities:

and

and rather vertues, and by the River of Stycks I swere, and with that he rose in a choller, this I will approoue against him that dare maintaine the contrary: though not with my pen, yet my sword: at this the Gods smild, and Mars in such a rage clapt his hand on the bord: that I awoke, not knowing what became of the Gods or of Arions soule, only I remembred their tales.

BEing thus awakt, I lokt about mee, and still sate my Shepheard: how now good fellow, quoth I, haue I not taken a lusty nap? thy Pipe sounded so sweetly, and there I had such a dreame as I would not haue lost for much, for I hope it will after more profit me then all my iourny, I haue past to Erecinus: I am glad quoth the Shepheard, my pipe did thee so much pleasure, and if thy slumber hath presented thee any visions, note them, for al dreames that men see in Erecinus, prooue true: and with that standing vp, me thought he had wings on his head, shoulders, and feete: he bad me farwell, & tooke his flight: then I knewe it was Mercury. Whereupon, calling to mind the occasion of my iourney: I found that either I had lost loue, or loue lost me: for my passions were eased, I left Erecinus and hasted away as fast as I could, glad that one dreame had rid me of fancy, which so long had fettred me, yet could I not hie so fast, but ere I could get home, I was ouertaken with repentance.

FINIS. Robert Greene.